

# THE LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

No 1988.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1855.

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44, West Strand, 15th February, 1855.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1955.

## REVIEWS.

*Catalogue of the Museum of London Antiquities*, collected by Charles Roach Smith. Printed for the Subscribers.

Among the crowds that are daily passing and repassing the busy streets of our metropolis, how few are reminded that beneath their feet are everywhere sepulchred, in a more or less perfect state of preservation, the remains of former peoples;—remains which, if collected, when opportunity offers, into a museum, and studied by the light of history, would give us a marvellous insight into the arts, habits, and employments of the inhabitants of old Londinium. Scarcely is a well sunk, or an excavation made, a sewer enlarged, a ditch emptied, or a river-bed deepened in any part of this great city, but some relic is brought to light of London in its Mediaeval, Norman, Anglo-Saxon, or Roman period. And yet how little pains are taken by the authorities to preserve them. Our City magnates seem hardly aware of the historic value that attaches to ancient fragments of sculpture and bronzes, and to the glass, pottery, tiles, pavements, wall-paintings, implements, utensils, personal ornaments, sandals, coins, seals, and tokens of their ancestors. When excavations are in hand there is no archaeological officer, as in some of the continental cities, to take charge of such treasures of antiquity, and our workmen either pound them up, unconscious of their value, with pickaxe and shovel, or dispose of them haphazard to the nearest purchaser. In making the cofferdams for the present London Bridge, a jet of water threw up a quantity of angels of Henry VII. and VIII., and of the latter king a number of half-sovereigns. They were, indeed, claimed, as every such metropolitan relic ought to be, by the Corporation, but where they are, it is now stated, "nobody knows;" and it is clear that neither the Committees of City Improvements or Commissioners of Sewers give themselves any trouble about the matter. We can understand why it is that, in the march of commerce, it has been found necessary to pull down crypts, and to grub up hypocausts and pavements, but how it is there is no one in authority with head enough to appreciate their historic value and preserve and arrange the fragments in a museum, we are at a loss to conceive. Fortunately a zealous antiquary or two have managed, by keeping a sharp look out among our diggings, and by force of bribery and corruption, to procure some of these remains, and as many as five collections have been formed in this way by private individuals. Three have been scattered by auction, but the best is happily preserved intact, and now catalogued and published by the eminent antiquary whose name is at the head of this notice.

Mr. C. Roach Smith appears to have been most enthusiastic and diligent in saving the City antiquities. Whenever a street was to be widened, a foundation to be dug, a sewer to be bored, or a ballast engine to be emptied, there the City antiquary has been, "with the most persuasive of all arguments," encouraging the labourers to rake, and sift, and grub in search of mediæval and primeval treasures, and the chase that he has been sometimes led to find the corresponding fragments of particular objects is not the least curious part of his history. On one occasion Mr. Smith

tells us that he procured a mutilated statue, of the Roman period, of Jupiter or Mercury, in bronze, dredged up at London Bridge while deepening the bed of the river for the steam-vessels. It was deficient a leg. He followed the gravel to Barnes, where it had been taken to mend the towing path, and there, sure enough, the leg had been picked up by some cottagers. On another occasion Mr. Smith discovered a curious Roman bronze among the dredgings at London Bridge, representing the Tail of a Peacock. It had been in his possession upwards of a twelve-month, when in grubbing amongst some gravel in a Thames barge he found a Peacock's body in bronze, and the two pieces actually fitted each other by a loop which identified their relationship.

The Museum of London Antiquities of Mr. Smith is arranged in 1017 lots, and the Catalogue, illustrated with 18 plates and 130 wood engravings, fills 193 neatly printed pages. They appear to have been chiefly collected during the recent excavation of lines of new streets, and the widening and deepening of sewers. When new ones were made, "the labourers," says the antiquary, "had a defined task-work to perform; to which they were rigidly restricted: their operations were limited to a certain width and depth, beyond which they were forbidden to wander. As, in most districts, they penetrated through the layers of earth composed of debris of the middle ages, down to the soil which marked the level of the Roman city, it was to be anticipated that many curious and valuable remains of antiquity would be brought to light." The first relic described by Mr. Smith is a Roman Figure in coarse Oolitic Limestone, twenty-six inches in height, broken at the knees and at the elbow of the left arm:—

"It represents a youthful personage with long and curling hair, dressed in the Phrygian cap, and a pallium, or cloak, fastened by a fibula upon the right shoulder over a tunic and waistband; the left hand holds a bow. The design and treatment of this figure are good, and the drapery is graceful; the right arm, however, is rather disproportionately thick. It is probably of provincial workmanship, and is of a better style of art than most of the comparatively few examples of sculptured figures which are known to have been executed in this country, or than those which, from the nature of the material, and from other circumstances, are presumed of native manufacture. It may be classed, as equal in merit, with the statues in the Duke of Bedford's collection, discovered a few years since by the late Mr. E. T. Artis, F.S.A., in Bedford Purlieu, which are of the compact oolite of the immediate neighbourhood, and with the Colchester sphinx, in sandstone.

"It was found in Bevis Marks, and having been carried away, by people in the employ of the Commissioners of Sewers, beyond the precincts of the city, was about to be sent to a remote part of the country, but, fortunately, I heard of the discovery, and recovered it."

Another interesting Roman remain is a fragment of a sepulchral monument, bearing an inscription to the memory of a soldier of the twentieth legion, found about ten years since in a garden in Battle-bridge, where it had been conveyed to form a stepping-stone to a cottage door. As an example of Roman Bronzes we quote the antiquary's description of Lots 11 and 15:—

"11. Statuette of Apollo, in bronze, five inches in height, dredged up from the bed of the Thames, near London Bridge. The left hand, and the lower parts of the legs, are wanting; in other respects, the figure is in a fine state of preservation. It is of the highest style of art, and perfectly fault-

less in design and execution. The countenance, downcast and pensive, exhibits manly grace and feminine beauty. The hair is elaborately worked. Arranged in coiffure towards the forehead, the long tresses are tied with a fillet at the back of the neck, and flow luxuriantly down the back, while a loose ringlet falls over each shoulder. The arm hangs down to its extreme length by the side of the body, and the hand retains a portion of some object, which has, unfortunately, been torn away. The anatomical treatment of the figure is extremely good. It was drawn and engraved by the late Mr. H. Corbould, and forms plate VII., vol. xxviii., of the 'Archæologia.'"

"15. Hand of a Colossal Bronze Statue, thirteen inches in length, and eleven inches round the wrist. It is well-modelled and cast, and gives us a high notion of the perfection to which the Romans carried the art of founding metal statues. From Pliny ('Hist. Nat.' lib. xxxiv., c. vii. et viii.), we learn many interesting particulars of the eminent workers in brass, in his own and in earlier times. Among the former was Zenodorus, who exercised his art in Gaul, and made a colossal statue of Mercury for the capital city of the Arverni, whose territories were the districts of the modern Auvergne. The remains of bronze statues which have been found in France and England, show that the chief cities of the northern provinces were enriched and ornamented with these costly and imposing works of art. From the value of the material comparatively few examples have come down to our own times. In England we may draw attention to the head of Hadrian, found in the Thames, and now in the British Museum; the hand, here for the first time engraved; the head of Apollo, found at Bath, and a fragment, of good workmanship, of a leg and hoof of a horse, nearly life size, found at Lincoln, and preserved in the museum of the Society of Antiquaries. The statue of Apollo, of heroic size, discovered at Lillebonne, and now in the possession of the Messrs. Woodburn, of St. Martin's-lane, is the finest and most perfect example of northern provincial art in this country, and should be secured for the national collection, or rather for that of France, to which it more properly belongs."

Of Roman red-glazed Pottery, commonly known by the term Samian, a variety of forms of bowls, vases, cup-shaped vessels, and patere occur, of which the following is an interesting example:—

"This vase, unfortunately not perfect, is about eleven inches in height. It was found in Cornhill; and it is rather remarkable, that the pieces were brought me by different persons, and at some intervals of time. It was of a class very superior to the ordinary embossed red pottery, and so rare that I only know of one other example besides those in this collection, which are described in this and the following numbers. The figures on this vase, and most of the ornaments, have been separately moulded and affixed whilst moist; the glaze was then added, and the vase carefully baked in the kiln. The central compartment is occupied by figures and vine foliage. There were originally four figures, probably two male and two female, placed equidistant from each other; there only remains a nude and graceful youthful male personage holding two hunting spears, and two draped female figures, seated; at the feet of one of the latter is an amphora, and by the side of the other an Amazonian shield. Above is a band filled with figures of rabbits, vine leaves, and grapes; and below, one with vine foliage and birds."

The examples of Roman glass vessels are described to be of the highest interest, though extremely fragmentary, illustrating the more complicate processes of glass-making and of the application of colouring matters:—

"213. Fragments of Bowls, in light green glass, ornamented on the exterior with a raised rib pattern, termed pillar moulding. Mr. Pellatt observes: 'Pillar moulding is one of the greatest modern improvements, and is used advantageously for lamp

pedestals, chandelier work, toilet bottles, salt cellars, &c., at very moderate cost. This was supposed to be a modern invention, and introduced by the late Mr. James Green as such a few years since; but in some Roman specimens recently exhumed in the city of London, and now in the possession of Mr. Roach Smith, it is proved beyond doubt that these projecting pillars, and the mode of their manipulation, were well known to the ancients. A very fine perfect example of these bowls, found at Takely, in Essex, is in the possession of Mr. Joseph Clarke.

Among the Roman personal ornaments are many curious specimens of hair-pins and sandals:—

"Numerous varieties of the *acus crinalis*, or hair-pin, in bone, from three to seven and a half inches in length, the larger end usually terminating in an ornament, such as a bust, a fir-cone, or a knob. The head-dresses of the Roman ladies were constructed with much care; and in allusion to them by the satirists, the pin is often mentioned, as by Martial:—

*Tenuis ne madidos violet bombycins crines,  
Fingat acus tortas sustineatque comas.*

Lib. xiv., ep. 24.

To the present day the hair-pin has not ceased to form a conspicuous part of the head-dress in Italy and Germany, where it is worn at the back of the head, the hair being gathered up and twisted round it.

"Various objects in leather, both Roman and mediæval, form one of the most interesting sections, and perhaps the rarest, in this Museum. The mediæval portion will be referred to under its proper head. The Roman is almost wholly confined to sandals. When the perishable nature of the material, under ordinary circumstances, is considered, together with the almost total absence of specimens of ancient leather sandals elsewhere, a question naturally arises as to the cause of the accumulation of so many examples in one collection. The preservation of the leather is, in the first place, entirely the consequence of its exclusion from atmospheric air in a wet or moist situation; and, secondly, of its being saturated with oil immediately after it is taken from the moist earth, and before it is dried. Thus, the evaporation of the water, and the absorption of the oil, go on simultaneously, and the leather retains its elasticity, and much of its other qualities. But if, when taken from the water or boggy earth in which it has been embedded, the leather is allowed to dry, it rapidly collapses, shrivels up, and becomes brittle and perishable. The sandals before us (plate IX.), were, together with others, taken chiefly from the bed of the Thames, several feet deep, and from the boggy soil of Lothbury and its neighbourhood.

"The more completely preserved shoes, as fig. 3, pl. IX., enable us to ascertain precisely how they were made. They are formed of four layers of leather, the outside of which is the thickest, and the innermost the thinnest; held together, without any appearance of stitching, by nails, clenched on the inside of the sole. These nails are placed in a single row round the edge of some of the soles, with five in the broadest part, and three at the heel; on others, the nails are thickly studded, illustrating the well-known passage in Juvenal:—

*'Cum ddo crura habes, offenderet tot caligas, tot  
Millia clavorum.'*—Sat. xvi., 24.

"The upper part of the sandals is of a piece with one of the layers of the sole formed from one piece of leather, the middle of which helped to form the sole, while the sides were cut into the elegant reticulated and looped patterns, and bent upwards. They were then sewn at the toe and heel, or simply at the heel."

As examples of Roman utensils and implements, we may quote the antiquary's description of a lot of keys, and of still used by the Romans for writing on tablets:—

"Keys of various kinds, chiefly in bronze, from one to five inches in length. Although there are upward of thirty, not any two of them are pre-

cisely alike. Modern ingenuity in the construction of locks and keys has accomplished but little, if anything, beyond what was well known to the ancients. When the late Mr. Mordan visited this collection, he observed, in reference to some of these specimens, that the principle of his patent keys had evidently been well understood by the Romans. He had, in fact, simply recovered what had long since been known and forgotten, like very many other supposed modern inventions."

"Still, in steel, about fifty specimens, from which three examples, shewn in the margin, are selected. They vary in length from four to six inches, and present a considerable variety in the form and ornamentation of the shanks, some of which are ribbed with brass; they all, however, are uniformly pointed at the one end, and flattened at the other. The *stili*, or *styli*, were used for writing on tablets of thin wood, covered over with wax, the flattened end being adapted to smooth the surface for fresh inscriptions, or for erasing and making corrections in the writing, alluded to in the prescript of Horace, *sæpe stilum vertas*, Sat. i. x. 72. The stilus was also called *graphium*, and its case *graphiærum*:

*'Hæc tibi erunt armata suo graphiæra ferro:  
Si puero dones, non leve munus erit.'*

Mart. Epig., lib. xiv., 21.

"Many other references in ancient writers might be quoted in relation to the material of which the stilus, or graphium, was made; it was not unfrequently used as a weapon, and wounding with a pen was not always, as at the present day, a mere figurative expression. The extraordinary preservation of these implements is to be attributed to their having been deposited in a moist soil, at great depths. They were chiefly procured from Lothbury and its vicinity, and some were recovered from the contents of a deep pit on the site of the New Royal Exchange, after they had been carted away to the suburbs of London."

In the list of personal ornaments of the Anglo-Saxons appears an interesting description, accompanied with an engraving on steel, of a beautiful Enamelled Ouche or Brooch, in gold, discovered, at the depth of about nine feet, in Thames-street, opposite Dowgate Hill:—

"It is composed of a circular compartment, one and a quarter inch in diameter, set with variegated enamel, representing a full-faced head and bust, the outlines of which, together with those of a crown upon the head, and the drapery of a mantle and tunic, are formed of threads of gold, effectively arranged so as to mark the features of the face and the folds of the drapery; this is inclosed in a border or rich gold filigree-work, set, at equal distances, with four pearls. The enamel is composed of a green and blue semi-transparent vitreous material for the garments, and a white opaque substance of a similar nature for the face. The hair, indicated by a darker colour, is divided in two bands over the forehead. The head is ornamented with a crown, surmounted with three globular projections; the filets of the crown, shown on the sides of the head, have foliated terminations. The bust is arrayed in a tunic, over which is a chlamys, or mantle, gracefully attached to the shoulders."

"In a letter addressed to the late Mr. Gage Rokewode, published in the 'Archæologia,' vol. xxix., pp. 70-75, I have assigned reasons for ascribing this beautiful jewel to the ninth century, and I have compared it with the well-known Alfred jewel, and with a large convex brooch in the Hamilton collection of gems in the British Museum. The workmanship is superior to that of both of these examples, but the principle of the construction is much the same in all, as well as in analogous works in the French national collections, some of which are probably of a much later date than that proposed for the London jewel, on grounds more fully entered upon in the letter referred to above."

The only Norman remains in the collection are two Copper Bowls, found together in

Lothbury, while digging the foundations of the London and Westminster Bank:—

"In the centre of the larger bowl is engraved a full-faced female figure, crowned, seated, and clothed in a tunic with full-hanging sleeves; over the tunic is worn an embroidered mantle, concealing the left arm, and falling in front to the feet; the shoulders are covered with a veil or coverchief, which hangs from the head beneath the crown; in each hand is held a flat circular object. This figure is repeated four times on the sides of the bowl; namely, twice full, and twice side-faced, canopied by segments of circles, as shown in the lower part of the accompanying plate. On the smaller bowl are figures of animals within semi-circular and other ornaments of dotted and zig-zag lines, worked with inferior skill to the engraving on the former bowl, which is executed with good taste and feeling, affording an interesting example of early engraving on metal. The circular objects held in the hands appear to be intended to represent cakes or bread, and may allude to the use of the bowl as a dole dish. The costume enables us to refer the date to the eleventh century."

Among the Mediæval Pottery, consisting chiefly of cups and pitchers, here is a curious specimen of a Watering Pot:—

"Watering-pot, of a dull-red clay, unglazed, with white ornamental streaks, twelve inches in height. The orifice at the top is about the diameter of a pea; and the bottom is pierced with numerous small holes. Immersed in water, it quickly fills. If the opening at the top be then closed with the thumb, the vessel may be carried, and the water distributed in small or large quantities, as required, in the mode of a modern watering-pot. Mr. George Gwilt, who possesses a specimen with a handle, has very happily illustrated this futile utensil, from an engraving in the 'Minerva Britannica, or a Garden of Heroical Devices,' and furnished and adorned with Emblems and Impresses of sundry Natures,' 4to., Lond., 1611. This engraving represents an earthen watering-pot, with the water running from it, and a label appended, with the motto, *Plus ne m'est rien, 'nothing remaineth to me';* a badge or cognomine adopted, it is stated, by Valentina, Duchess of Orleans, at Blois, to manifest her grief for the death of her husband, Louis, brother to King Charles VI. This, as Mr. Gwilt observes, was long anterior to the date of the book; the character of the pots, and the circumstances under which they were found, would suggest the fifteenth century as the latest period to which they should be assigned."

Belonging to the same period are a number of interesting specimens of embossed leather fragments of saddles, shoes, sandals, &c.:—

"Peaked, or Long-pointed Shoe, of the close of the reign of Edward III., and subsequent. (Plate xiv., fig. 1.) In the reign of Richard II. this fashion flourished in its fullest extravagance. The extreme length of these shoes required that the points should be stuffed; and accordingly, some of these, found in London, were filled with fine moss. This fact will serve to explain a French saying which, without reverting to the customs of a period long passed away, is impossible to understand. Speaking of a rich man the French say in common parlance, 'Il a du dans ses bottes' literally, 'He has hay in his boots.' The application of the saying is not very obvious; nor is it apparent why hay in the shoes or boots should be a natural consequence of riches. Examine our pointed shoes of the fourteenth century, and it will be at once fully understood that none but rich men could possibly wear such cumbersome coverings; and that as they did wear them, they were compelled to submit to the stuffing of moss and of hay; and thus the saying becomes perfectly applicable and intelligible."

The remainder of the collection consists of Coins, Seals, Pilgrims' and other Signs, and a variety of miscellaneous articles, all of which

testify in a high degree of the untiring zeal of Mr. Smith's labours, and of the depth of his archaeological acumen.

*Victoria Regia; or, the Great Water Lily of America: with a brief Account of its Discovery and Introduction into Cultivation.* By John Fisk Allen. Boston, U.S.: Dutton and Wentworth.

WE have a great respect for the esteem in which English works are held in the United States. American admiration of British talent, if not advantageous to the author's pocket, must at least be gratifying to his literary pride; for there are few works of renown in this country which the Yankee publishers are not on the alert to reproduce and sell at half-price 'right slick off.' With a few honourable exceptions, there is not much invention in the American literary mind. It is not wanting in character, but it lacks refinement; and what it does present of originality is of somewhat coarse flavour. It is well for the New World that it has a fountain of fresh springs to draw from in the Old. A fair and honest reprint the law allows; and since nature has denied to America a literature of her own, let her drink freely of the waters of paternity. But there is one essential condition to this—there must be no blinking of authorship. An Englishman dearly values his good name. With plagiarism we can hold no terms; and when we find a work, as in the case before us, presented in America as an original scientific memoir, when it is in reality nothing but a mangled reproduction of one published three years before in England, it is only natural that we should feel, if not indignant, a little 'riled.'

In 1851, when the Great Victoria Water Lily of the Central American Rivers had been introduced into this country, and cultivated with success at Chatsworth, at Syon, and at Kew, Sir William Hooker, the Director of the Royal Gardens, resolved to publish a memoir of its history, with illustrations of the plant in various stages of flowering, and with dissections, all of the natural size. It required a fasciculus of elephant folio dimensions, and no expense was spared to make the work worthy of its subject. It was not expected to be remunerative either to author, artist, or publisher, but all worked for it *con amore*; and the memoir was in every respect one of original research. A work of similar colossal dimensions, type, and style of illustration, has just been published in Boston, United States, dedicated with great pomp to the President of the Horticultural Society of that city, by a Mr. John Fisk Allen, and the following, from the opening page, is an example of the use made of Sir William Hooker's text:—

Hooker.

"It is now fifty years, as far as our researches enable us to ascertain, since this truly royal plant was first detected. The honour of its original discovery is due to Hænke, under circumstances recorded as follows by M. A. D'Orbigny.—'When I was travelling (says this latter gentleman) in Central America, in the country of the wild Guarayos, who are a tribe of

Allen.

"This plant was discovered about fifty-one years ago by the botanist Hænke, who was sent by the Spanish government in 1801 to investigate the vegetable productions of Peru, and the fruits of whose labours have been lost to science. M. A. D'Orbigny says—'When I was travelling in Central America, in the country of the wild Guarayos, who are a tribe of wild

Guaranis or Caribs, I made acquaintance with Father La Cueva, a Spanish missionary, a good and well informed man, beloved for his patriarchal virtues, and who had long and earnestly devoted himself to the conversion of the natives. The traveller, who after spending a year among the Indians, meets with a fellow creature capable of understanding and exchanging sentiments with him, can easily appreciate the delight and eagerness with which I conversed with this venerable old man, thirty years of whose life had been passed among savages. In one of our interviews he happened to mention the famous botanist Hænke, who had been sent by the Spanish government in 1801 to investigate the vegetable productions of Peru, and the fruit of whose labours has been unfortunately lost to science. Father La Cueva and Hænke were in a *piroque* upon the Rio Marmore, one of the great tributaries of the Amazon river, when they discovered in the marshes, by the side of the stream, a flower which was so surpassingly beautiful and extraordinary, that Hænke, in a transport of admiration, fell on his knees,' &c.

"The fact was not made public till nearly forty years afterwards, in the *Ann. des Sciences Nat.*; and it is not a little remarkable that such a truly striking plant, now known to abound in the still quiet nooks, or Igaripés, of most of the rivers in Tropical America, east of the Andes, (in short, it seems to hold the same place in those regions that the white water lily, *Nymphaea alba*, does in Europe,) should not appear to have attracted the attention of ordinary travellers—no one among them, so far as we are aware, noticed it in a manner which would render it recognisable by the reader; and yet it is, without exception, if we take it as a whole—leaves, flowers, size, colour, and graceful position in the water, especially when viewed with the usual accompaniments of Tropical American aquatic scenery—the most beautiful plant yet known to Europeans."

Although Mr. Allen states, a page or two

or Caribs, I made acquaintance with Father La Cueva, a Spanish missionary, a good and well informed man, beloved for his patriarchal virtues, and who had long and earnestly devoted himself to the conversion of the natives. The traveller, who after spending a year among the Indians, meets with a fellow creature capable of understanding and exchanging sentiments with him, can easily appreciate the delight and eagerness with which I conversed with this venerable old man, thirty years of whose life had been passed among savages.' In one of these interviews he mentioned that, with Hænke, he was in a canoe on the Rio Marmore, one of the great tributaries of the River Amazon, when they discovered in the marshes, by the side of the stream, a flower so extraordinary, that Hænke fell on his knees in a transport of admiration.

"This fact was not made known till nearly forty years afterwards, and it is not a little remarkable that so strange a plant, now known to abound in the still quiet nooks of Tropical America, east of the Andes, should not have been noticed by ordinary travellers, in such a manner as to make it recognisable by the reader; and 'yet it is, without exception, if we take it as a whole—leaves, flowers, size, colour, and graceful position in the water, especially when viewed with the usual accompaniments of Tropical American aquatic scenery—the most beautiful plant known to Europeans."

further on, when treating of the cultivation, that he has relied mainly on the work of Sir W. Hooker for the correctness of his historical materials, it will be seen that the passage here quoted is nothing but an ingenious transposition of the original, omitting the authorities and notes, with a dishonest use of quotation commas; and in a city like Boston, United States, where the natural sciences are prosecuted with great vigour and research by men of eminence and repute, such pilfering in a work of this pretension should not be allowed to pass without remonstrance. The plates, poorly executed by Mr. Sharp, from specimens grown at Salem, Massachusetts, are not copied in detail from Sir William Hooker's work, but only in style, and of this we have no right to complain.

The most curious part of the story remains to be told. The spurious commodity of Mr. Allen has been exported to this country to be sold at 2*l.* 10*s.* per copy, whilst the original and really magnificent work of Sir William Hooker is sold at a guinea.

*Helionde; or Adventures in the Sun.* Chapman and Hall.

IN this ingenious philosophical romance, while the author discusses some scientific questions, full scope is found for speculations and reflections on a great variety of subjects. In the description of the sun and its inhabitants, the discoveries and conjectures of astronomers are cleverly used, but in narrating many of his own solar adventures, the writer might as well have fixed upon some Atlantis or Utopia, or the centre of the Earth, as the scene of the imaginary travels and disquisitions. But the Sun answers the purpose very well, especially as the discussion of the question of the plurality of worlds has attracted of late considerable attention. Of the certainty of the sun being inhabited no doubt is raised, and the opinions of Sir W. Herschel, Huygens, and Swedenborg, at the threshold of the book, are used in confirmation of the belief. Sir David Brewster, too, has pronounced as a philosophical axiom, which need not be closely examined by a romancer, that 'wherever there is matter, there must be life—life physical to enjoy its beauties, life moral to worship its Maker, life intellectual to proclaim His wisdom and His power.' The manner of the author's reaching the solar regions is thus amusingly told:—

"I did not soar into the regions of air like Icaromenippus in Lucian; nor did I ascend in a basket swung from the heavens, as is recorded in the Persian tales. Nor did I fly from Crete and perish in the sea like the son of Dædalus. Nor did I ride through the air like Abaris on his arrow. Nor, as Pythagoras, did I retire into the worlds of departed spirits, laden with hyperborean wonders. Nor, like the Jewish Talmudists, did I guess what goes on above. Nor did I ascend, like Mahomed in the Turks' Alcoran, upon a Pegasus sent on purpose. Nor did I shoot out of a volcano in form of scorie, and, being impelled beyond the earth's attraction, become lost in the sun's gravitation. Nor, like the Turk in Busbequius, will I pretend I can make wings and fly. No, gracious reader, the manner of my reaching the glorious regions of eternal light happened as follows.

"It so chanced that in the vigour of youth I was attacked by so severe a malady, that, after trying every remedy that human ingenuity could devise, I was recommended, as a last resource, to test the curative powers of an hydropathic establishment. I did so, and this trifling event resulted in the most astounding transmigration that ever fell to the lot

of man. \* \* \* With Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer Lytton's essay in my pocket, and resolution at my heart, I retreated to one of the first hydropathic establishments in England; and in this place occurred that extraordinary metamorphosis which, if described by Ovid, would transcend beyond measure all those mythical changes which that author's elegant, tender, and voluptuous pen has described, for the benefit of our young men at college, and for the good of society in general.

"The first week in my new abode passed away without any remarkable event, but at the end of that period the hottest summer set in that ever perhaps occurred in this country. It was one of the good old-fashioned sort of summers—'attending by the sultry hours'—such as our ancestors experienced when the sun really did come forth falling like molten gold; when the grass was turned into hay without cutting; when brooks dried up without leave; and not a bird sang forth till the evening air braced up his little throat for song. Well, during this season of excessive heat I found the water system agreeable enough, and I drank of the fluid to such a degree that I became almost transformed. My bones seemed to be turned into glass, my blood to water, and my veins to crystal aqueducts. Still I persevered, still I drank of the fountain, still I dabbled in the baths. The time, indeed, seemed approaching when I should be changed into a water-god, crowned by the hydropathic doctor, and installed as the 'Genius of the Spring.' In fact, one night I absolutely dreamed that the transformation had taken place—but it was only a dream; and still I drank and drank, and soaked and soaked.

"The summer sun increased in fierceness as the season advanced. By day scarcely a sound was heard, and the tinkle of the distant sheep-bell, as it came wafted over the meadows, was the only evidence of life. Still I drank and drank, and soaked and soaked.

"It so happened, that one day, after a more than usually long abluſion, I ſautered forth into the glades, and, like Endymion of old, I lay down and went to ſleep. It is true there was no moon to fall in love with me, neither did I ſlumber for thirty years like the ſhepherd of Caria; but Sol performed the part of Luna, and while I there lay, cloſe to a bed of fragrant heliotropes, huſhed in the calm reſe which only a water-drinker enjoys, the ſun's piercing rays permeated my entire ſyſtem, diſſipated into vapour what little remained of the body comparative, and literally drank me up, like a thirſty ſoul that he is.

“My feelings at the moment of dissolution it would be impossible to describe. The molecules of my body partly separated, and became thin and vaporous. Cohesion, however, still feebly existed, and, curiously enough, my sensations were by no means unpleasant. It seemed as though I were inhaling gallons of chloroform, and the process of attenuation produced a sort of half-dreamy, half-voluptuous feeling, similar to that which the hatchis-eaters are said to experience. How long this sort of distillation lasted I know not, but at length I arose, like the genius out of the brass vessel of the fisherman, a form of vapour yet in mortal shape, and I was drawn upward through the air by that inexorable power which had changed me into an exhalation, and while hurrying me towards another sphere was moulding me in a form capable of existing therein.”

We shall not follow the transfigured traveller in his manifold adventures, either with the puissant prince Alûtedon, or the charming princess Heliosweet. Of the solar language and literature, this account is given to the stranger by the prince, his guide:—

" 'Our language is composed of groups of musical notes: and rhythm imparts all the variety of meaning.'

"It would be difficult to convey an idea of Alútedon's manner of speaking. Each syllable was a full delicious sound of music, modulated in the most extraordinary manner. Sometimes the same note expressing an idea was staccato; or gliding

into another note its meaning was changed; then slightly swelling crescendo, it implied something else; then sinking diminuendo, its inference was altered. Thus one syllable, that is, one musical sound, had a thousand different modes of expression; and these again being multiplied by an infinite variety of combinations, a most exquisite mode of imparting thought was the result.

'And thus they speak in soft accord  
The liquid language of the skies.'

"Be it also remembered that although these sounds were composed of vibrations of the air, yet the air of the sun was a far more subtle fluid than with us, consequently a delicacy yet power of articulation was attained quite indescribable and utterly unknown to our senses. Added to this, the capacity of appreciating sound was to the Helionites' ear more than a thousand times greater than our own; and that which we should term seven elementary notes, consisted with them of something like five hundred, each capable of about one hundred and fifty different modes of expression."

The conversations recorded in the book are supposed to be carried on in this musical language, a rough translation into terrestrial speech being supplied to the reader.

"Alutédon informed me that authors had no occasion to employ manual labour in their publications, for they had only to repeat their ideas aloud, and the vibrations of the air, differing according to the words used, set in motion a very delicate machinery which stamped indelibly the language expressed. Copies could afterwards be taken in any number. These machines, however, refused to perform their office when the author's ideas were either obscure, illogical, old, or erroneous. This criticism by machinery served to keep down the weeds of literature; and when an author found a blank upon the tablet, he usually relinquished that particular train of thought, and either mended it or took to another.

"The critics were thus saved a vast amount of labour, and the literature of the Sun was necessarily exceedingly choice.

"The machines, which I have already mentioned, at the openings in the roof, seemed now at work, and I asked Altdoten for an explanation. Hereplied by approaching the objects of my curiosity, which I then perceived were an apparatus for transferring, by means of certain known laws of light—what does the reader think?—why, the ideas of all the great men residing in Mercury, Venus, and the Earth! The moment an emanation from the mind of any one of the inhabitants of these worlds arose, either novel, strange, useful, or beautiful, it found a reflexion on the tablets, and became thereon impressed in the language of the writer or thinker, as the case might be. Just as we take photographic pictures by means of a world of 95,000,000 of miles distant, so by the power of this apparatus people's ideas in hypercircular spheres, were transfixed on a highly sensitive preparation; but it should be understood that only those thoughts found a reflex which were subtle enough to ascend through space, so that all the rubbish and dross remained behind. The ponderosity of the earth may therefore be accounted for."

The account of the return to earth is thus given :—

"Whatever my feelings might have been I am unable to say, for all other sensation was suddenly lost in one of the most extreme cold, so much so that my blood seemed to freeze in my veins. At the same moment the form of my lovely charge—lovely whether Heliosweet or Christabel—melted from my grasp; my body, instead of being borne on the pliant air, rested on a hard surface; a sound of rippling water seemed close by; a soft breeze fanned my cheek; the odour of flowers exhaled around; and at the same moment some strange power shook my arm, and a well-known voice exclaimed—

"My good fellow, you will catch your death of cold sleeping on the damp grass!"

"Where was I? What could such earthly vernacular mean? Could I still be in my senses, or my senses in me? Yes; all was sober reality, even to the Hydropathic Doctor beseeching me to stir myself; here was his garden; here the bed of heliotropes near which I had gone to sleep; and, indeed, everything around me was exactly in the *status quo ante*, including even myself; so that, in the words of Terence, I could exclaim—

<sup>1</sup> *Homo sum, humani nihil alienum a me puto.*

"As for the Sun himself, I suppose, as he descended down his western journey, my dreams had necessarily come to a conclusion, and the lovely being I fancied lying in my arms I was forced to believe had vanished from, or never knew my embrace. A gold line of crimson just tipped the horizon, and as I rose, still rather confused with my long nap, I almost fancied I could discern the bride of my bright vision fade in the light air, her eyes beaming with saddened love, and her hand raised pointing to her home, whither she was winging her trackless flight!

"Sleeping so long during the changes in the temperature made me feel languid and depressed, and after patiently listening to a little lecture from my good friend, the Doctor upon the folly of courting cold or fever, I was glad to escape into my own room, and at once dozed down the principal features of my strange dream, even then scarcely able to determine whether I had paid a veritable visit to Heliopolis, and feeling in my heart a secret regret that I had awoke to the dull realities of life."

We have quoted enough to show that 'Heliogé' is a book having some novelty of plan and great liveliness of style. The allusions to topics both literary and scientific, indicate a writer of learning as well as cleverness, and if more time and labour had been bestowed on the composition of the tale, it might have taken a high place among philosophical romances; as it is, the perusal of the book will afford entertainment.

*Australia and its Gold Fields: a Historical Sketch of the Progress of the Australian Colonies. With a Particular Account of the Recent Gold Discoveries, and Observations on the present Aspect of the Land Question.* By Edward Hammond Hargraves. Ingram and Co.

This book of Mr. Hargraves quite sets at rest the question as to the history of the discovery of gold in Australia. He has a right to speak with authority on the subject, being universally acknowledged as the first *practical* explorer, and having made himself master of all that had previously been written and done in the matter. His general verdict is, that the honour of being the scientific discoverer of gold in these regions is due to Sir Roderick Murchison alone, an honour which that distinguished geologist has claimed less for his own sake than for that of the science which he cultivates. A rival claim to priority of discovery has been put forward, and maintained with great pertinacity, as our readers are aware, by a geologist in Australia, the Rev. W. B. Clarke. The facts as alleged by each claimant are thus stated by Mr. Hargraves:—

"In the year 1844 Sir Roderick Murchison instituted a comparison between the rocks of Eastern Australia—numerous specimens of which had been brought home by Count Strelezki—and those of the auriferous Ural Mountains, with which he was, personally, well acquainted. His observations upon this comparative view were printed in the same year (1844), in the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society. This, then, was the first published declaration of opinion that gold must exist in Australia. Again, at the anniversary

meeting of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, held at Penzance, in the year 1846, Sir Charles Lemon, the president, in the chair, Sir Roderick Murchison made an address upon the same subject, in which he urged the superabundant Cornish tin miners to emigrate to the colony of New South Wales, and there obtain gold from the alluvial soil in the same manner as they extracted tin from the gravel of their native country. Again, in the year 1846, when some specimens of Australian gold ore were sent to him as an authority on the subject, he, on the 5th of November of that year, addressed a letter to Earl Grey, then Secretary for the Colonies, stating his views as to the existence of rich gold fields in the colony. From all which Sir Roderick justly infers, that as his memoirs of 1844 and 1846 are anterior to any other printed documents relating to Australian gold, so he was the first person who wrote to her Majesty's Government on the actual discovery of specimens of native ore, and who urged that a well-regulated search for it should be instituted, not as a crude speculation or matter of guess work, based merely on theory, but as the direct result of inductive reasoning, founded upon facts and extensive geological observation. Such are the grounds on which Sir Roderick Murchison's claims to be the first scientific discoverer of gold in Australia rest.

"Let us now see what are Mr. Clarke's pretensions. As the foregoing summary of Sir R. Murchison's claims has been taken from a letter of his to the Colonial Secretary, bearing date July 8th, 1853, so it is but just to take Mr. Clarke's account of his own pretensions from his answer to that letter, addressed to the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, and dated the 21st of December, 1853. After disclaiming any desire in the slightest degree to diminish the value which Sir Roderick Murchison assigns to the dates of the printed documents above alluded to, and likewise disclaiming any desire to depreciate the importance of his communication to Earl Grey in 1848, Mr. Clarke proceeds:—

"But I trust I shall be allowed to claim equal value for my own communication to his Excellency the late Sir George Gipps, on the 9th of April, 1844, to members of the Legislative Council of this colony in the same year, and to other residents in this colony two years before, respecting my own anticipations of gold, which were derived, not from such comparisons with the writings of Sir R. L. Murchison as that gentleman has mentioned, but from my own observation of the geology of New South Wales, and from personal discovery in 1841 that its rocks are auriferous. Without, then, wishing in any way to detract from the independent merits of my illustrious friend, or to deny the advantages in maturing my opinions which I may have derived from his accomplished studies and extensive researches in Russia, I desire finally to record here, that the only claim I have hitherto preferred is, to have been the first person in Australia who announced, generally, as indicated upon geological principles combined with personal experience, that it is a rich auriferous region; and I do not conceive that, in common justice, (as respects any claim advanced out of the colony,) this will be denied; for it is utterly impossible that any information from any other writer could have been obtained by me in 1841, or that in 1844 I could have profited by the publications of Sir Roderick, especially from those which I have not seen between 1844 and 1848. I rely on the candour of the Governor-General to permit this vindication of my right to be considered as having been connected with the question of gold in Australia from the year 1841, to be placed on record in connexion with the just claims of Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, as the anticipator and the predictor of gold in Australia from the earliest period to which he bears testimony."

Mr. Hargraves then examines in detail the chief points in Mr. Clarke's evidence before the Committee of the Legislative Council of New South Wales. The whole claim amounts in brief to this—that Mr. Clarke had, as early

as 1841, found specimens of gold accidentally, as some natives and convicts had done before him; that he subsequently expressed a belief that gold would be found abundantly in Australia, but took no steps to verify or follow up his own prediction until the proceedings of Mr. Hargraves forced public attention to the subject, upon which Mr. Hargraves justly observes:—

"Can Mr. Clarke's casual picking up a bit of quartz containing a pennyweight of gold be entitled to the name of a discovery? Can it for a moment be put in comparison with Sir Roderick Murchison's careful investigation of Count Strelezki's specimens, and his comparison of those specimens with the formations of the Ural Mountains, which he had himself visited, and of which he had written an elaborate account, and from which he drew the conclusion that gold must exist in Australia? I think not."

"If Mr. Clarke did at that time—at any time between 1841 and 1844—really entertain an idea, based upon scientific deduction, of the existence of gold in Australia, his whole conduct shows that he placed but little reliance on his own discernment, or in the value of the discovery supposed to be made by him. When men make great discoveries in science—even though those discoveries be not sufficiently matured for publication—yet they commonly take care to preserve evidence of those discoveries, and of their own concern in them. And this one discovery of gold in Australia,—was it not practically of the weightiest importance as a means of increasing the wealth of the mother country, as well as of the colony? And, viewing the question scientifically—the noblest light in which it can be viewed—is not the discovery of the existence of gold, whether in Australia or elsewhere, by the aids of science, entitled to be viewed as one of the grandest steps that geological science has ever yet taken?"

"I think it must be held as very clear that Mr. Clarke has no pretensions to be considered the scientific discoverer of gold in Australia, but that the honour is due to Sir R. Murchison alone."

So early as 1788, soon after the country was first colonized, it is on record that gold was found near Port Jackson. From time to time, previous to Mr. Clarke's date of 1841, pieces of gold bearing quartz were picked up; and after that year a shepherd, Macgregor, was in the habit of taking specimens to a Sydney jeweller for sale. It was in 1839 that Count Strelezki made a geological examination of the Australian gold regions. He seems to have been fully aware of the presence of the precious metal in the quartz rocks, but not, as he thought, to an extent likely to bear any commercial value. It was when his specimens were examined by Sir Roderick Murchison that the real scientific discovery took place. The comparison made by that geologist between the Ural mountains and "the Australian Cordilleras" was a memorable announcement, which establishes his claim to the honour of the scientific discovery. Mr. Hargraves' narrative of his own personal share in the discovery is extremely interesting, and on the face of it bears proof of being authentic. He certainly deserves the honour received by him as the first practical explorer of the gold-fields, and his solid reward the reader can hardly refrain from wishing to have been far greater. We quote a few paragraphs from his narrative:—

"After resting one day at Guyong, on the 12th of February, 1851, I started thence, accompanied by young Lister. Our course was down the Lewes Pond Creek, a tributary to the Summer Hill Creek, which again is a tributary of the Macquarie River. After travelling a distance of about fifteen miles, I found myself in the country that I was so anxiously

longing to behold again. My recollection of it had not deceived me. The resemblance of its formation to that of California could not be doubted or mistaken. I felt myself surrounded by gold; and with tremulous anxiety panted for the moment of trial, when my magician's wand should transform this trackless wilderness into a region of countless wealth."

"Still one difficulty seemed to present itself. There had been an unusual drought during the summer, which was now drawing to a close, and the creek, where we then were, was completely dried up. My guide, however, in answer to my inquiries, told me that we should find water lower down; so, following its course, we soon fell in with some rocks which contained a sufficient supply."

"We now turned out our horses; and seated ourselves on the turf, as it was necessary to satisfy the cravings of hunger before I ventured on my grand experiment. Had that failed, but little appetite for food would have been left me."

"My guide went for water to drink, and after making a hasty repast, I told him that we were now in the gold fields, and that the gold was under his feet as he went to fetch the water for our dinner. He stared with incredulous amazement, and on my telling him that I would now find some gold, watched my movements with the most intense interest. My own excitement, probably, was far more intense than his. I took the pick and scratched the gravel off a schistose dyke, which ran across the creek at right angles with its side; and with the trowel I dug a panful of earth, which I washed in the water-hole. The first trial produced a little piece of gold. 'Here it is!' I exclaimed; and I then washed five panfuls in succession, obtaining gold from all but one."

"More, however, was to be done before I could make public my discovery. It was necessary to ascertain over what extent of country in that district the same formation prevailed, in order to arrive at some notion of the probable extent of the gold fields."

"Accordingly, I resolved on visiting the Macquarie river. My guide, not being acquainted with that country, recommended to me a youth by the name of James Tom, to whom, likewise, I was under the necessity of divulging my secret, and making known my first discovery. He accordingly took Lister and myself about eighty miles, where we fell in with the Macquarie river."

"The country in this neighbourhood was very flat, and no rocks were visible. But we were then in sight of what have since become the extensive Burrandong diggings. The appearance of everything around promised well. We pursued the bed of the river, the stream of which was at the time running very sluggish. It was in many places only a few inches deep; in others were deep holes; and when the banks closed in, the rocks were visible, consisting of compact schists, traversed by quartz veins, threads, and trap-dykes. Here again I satisfied myself of the auriferous character of the country by actual trial, and did so frequently all the way up to the point of my first discovery."

"On ascending the table-land from the Macquarie, the Turon mountains became visible in the distance, and, as far as could be discerned, they gave every appearance of being auriferous. After seven or eight days spent in this way we returned to our starting-point, I being fully satisfied that there existed an extent of at least seventy miles of auriferous land in the part of the country I had traversed."

Of the public recognition of his valuable services the following statement is given:—

"The Legislative Council of New South Wales awarded me the sum of 10,000*l.*, deducting, by way of discount, the 500*l.* I first received; an amount of compensation which I by no means complain of. But I must say that I made a very bad bargain when I consented to leave the amount of reward to the discretion of that body. For I hardly think that, had I stipulated for the apparently small per centage of 10*s.* on every 100*l.* value of gold exported from Australia, for the

period of three years from my first discovery, it would have been considered unreasonable. Indeed, I believe this remuneration would have been considered very moderate; yet that per centage on the exports for those three years, estimated to amount to 50,000,000*l.*, would have produced no less a sum than 250,000*l.*"

Mr. Hargraves' volume contains a sketch of the history of the colony, and notices of its present condition and resources. There is little that is new in that part of the book, many works having lately appeared with fuller information on colonial affairs. But of the history of the discovery of gold this is the best account that has yet been published, and as such is an interesting contribution not only to the annals of the colony, but to the general records of history and science.

*A History of the City of Dublin.* By J. T. Gilbert, Hon. Sec. Irish Archaeological and Celtic Society. Vol. I. Dublin: McGlashan.

In 1766 a work was published on the 'History and Antiquities of the City of Dublin,' from the manuscript collections of Walter Harris, Esq., then lately deceased. Harris had brought together a variety of information procured before his time by Sir James Ware, and by his son, Robert Ware, who in the reign of Charles II. began to compile an account of the city. No systematic work on the same subject was attempted from 1766 until, in 1818, two large volumes were published in London, under the joint names of S. Warburton, Deputy Keeper of the Records in Birmingham Tower; the Rev. J. White-law, Vicar of St. Catherine's; and the Rev. Robert Walsh, Member of the Royal Irish Academy. The first two died during the progress of the work, which Mr. Walsh took up and completed. Since that period, as much new information has been obtained, and as many errors were contained in Warburton and Walsh's book, the learned Secretary of the Irish Archaeological Society has undertaken a history of greater accuracy and completeness. The topographical and archaeological details are valuable to the antiquary, but there are also many biographical and historical notices of general interest. We give a few miscellaneous extracts in which Irish and English associations are blended. To begin with a name better known now on the Thames than the Liffey:—

"Thomas Dogget, one of the most celebrated actors of his day, and author of a comedy, published in 1696, styled, *The Country Wake*, was born in Castle-street. The name of Dogoit or Doget is to be found in the Anglo-Irish Annals of the thirteenth century; and Gilbertus Doget is mentioned in connexion with Dublin in an unpublished Pipe-Roll of the year 1261. Dogget's first appearance was made on the Dublin stage, and he subsequently, in conjunction with his townsman Robert Wilks, and Colley Cibber, became joint manager of Drury-lane Theatre; his share in which, although estimated at 1000*l.* per annum, was surrendered by him in 1712, owing to a disagreement with his partners. Some of Congreve's plays were said to have owed much of their success to the admirable manner in which Dogget performed the parts which had been expressly written for him. The intimacy which existed between the actor and the poet probably originated while the latter was a student in the University of Dublin, and engaged in writing *The Old Bachelor*, that wonderful 'first play' which excited the admiration of the veteran Dryden. Colley Cibber made Dogget's performance of certain parts the subject of long study, and considered himself to have attained perfection

in his profession, when he was able successfully to imitate the Dublin actor.

"Dogget, who died in 1721, is described as a 'little, lively, sprat man;' in politics he was a staunch Whig, and to commemorate the Hanoverian accession, he bequeathed a sum of money to purchase a coat and silver badge, to be rowed for on the Thames on the first of August annually, by six young watermen whose apprenticeship expired in the previous year. The Garrick Club of London possesses an original portrait of Dogget, which, we believe, has never been engraved. The coat and badge are still regularly contended for on the Thames; but, like another Irishman, Sir Hans Sloane, founder of the British Museum, Dogget, while munificent to strangers, left nothing to perpetuate his memory in his native country."

In Fishamble-street was the Music Hall, where Handel, driven by the goddess of Dulness to the Hibernian shore, gave his first performances. He thus wrote to his friend and literary coadjutor, Charles Jennens, of the first concert, given December 23, 1761:—

"The Nobility did me the honour to make amongst themselves a subscription for six nights, which did fill a room of six hundred persons, so that I needed not sell one single ticket at the door, and without vanity the performance was received with a general approbation. Signora Avolio, which I brought with me from London, pleases extraordinary. I have form'd another tenor voice, which gives great satisfaction, the basses and counter-tenors are very good, and the rest of the chorus singers (by my direction) do exceeding well; as for the instruments, they are really excellent, Mr. Dubourgh being at the head of them, and the music sounds delightfully in this charming room, which puts me in such spirits (and my health being so good) that I exert myself on the organ with more than usual success. I opened with the Allegro, Penseroso, and Moderato, and I assure you that the words of the Moderato are vastly admired. The audience being composed (besides the flower of ladies of distinction, and other people of the greatest quality) of so many bishops, deans, heads of the College, the most eminent people in the law, as the Chancellor, Auditor-General, &c. &c., all which are very much taken with the poetry, so that I am desired to perform it again the next time. I cannot sufficiently express the kind treatment I receive here; but the politeness of this generous nation cannot be unknown to you, so I let you judge of the satisfaction I enjoy, passing my time with honour, profit, and pleasure. They propose already to have some more performances when the six nights of the subscription are over, and my Lord Duke (of Devonshire) the Lord-Lieutenant (who is always present with all his family on those nights) will easily obtain a longer permission for me by his Majesty; so that I shall be obliged to make my stay here longer than I thought."

In the chapter on Christ Church, or the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, many details of ecclesiastical history and antiquities are collected. The account of Newgate and other prisons exhibits a horrible state of affairs, which has happily now long passed away. In Ireland even more than in England, every historical book such as the present tends to dissipate the delusion about 'good old times.' Although much social misery and wrong still prevail, the state of Dublin, socially and politically, is as much in advance of what it was a century ago, as its state then was beyond the wildest savagdom. From the concluding chapter of this volume we select some passages relating to Ussher's Island:—

"In the middle of the last century a row of large trees extended from Arran Bridge to within about two hundred and fifty feet of the Bloody Bridge, along the southern side of Ussher's Island, the most important building upon which was 'Moira House,' the residence of the Rawdons, a

family first established in Ireland in the reign of Charles I. by Sir George Rawdon, whose services in the royal cause were recompensed in 1665 by the baronetcy of Moira, county of Down, anciently styled Magh Rath, or the Plain of the Rath, and rendered memorable by an engagement fought there in the seventh century, the original Gaelic narrative of which has been published by the Irish Archaeological Society.

"The mansion on Ussher's Island was ornamented and embellished in a style of great splendour by Healy, a Dublin artist, engaged by Sir John Rawdon, the fourth Baronet, who was born in 1720, created Earl of Moira in 1762, and married, firstly, to Helena Percival, daughter of the Earl of Egmont; secondly, to Anne Trevor, sister of the Earl of Hillsborough; and thirdly, to Elizabeth Hastings, eldest daughter of Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon.

"Floubert, commander of the French troops landed by Thurot at Carrickfergus in 1760, passed some days at Moira House later in the same year, on his journey to France, after having recovered from his wounds. John Wesley tells us that he visited Lady Moira on Ussher's Island in 1775, 'and was surprised to observe, though not a more grand, yet, a far more elegant room than any he had ever seen in England. It was an octagon, about twenty feet square, and fifteen or sixteen high; having one window (the sides of it inlaid throughout with mother-of-pearl) reaching from the top of the room to the bottom; the ceiling, sides, and furniture of the room were equally elegant. And,' adds Wesley, 'must this too pass away like a dream!' In 1777 Charles James Fox was introduced to Henry Grattan at Moira House, which was the scene of constant magnificent entertainments and assemblies, till the death of the first Earl of Moira, in June, 1793."

Many notices are then given of the Moira family. The first Lady Moira was daughter of the famous Countess of Huntingdon, which accounts for Wesley's introduction. She was a woman of superior intellect and great accomplishment, and gathered around her at Moira House many distinguished celebrities. The second Earl of Moira was a liberal statesman, and did all in his power to conciliate the strong party leaders of the time, and to shield the patriotic Irish from persecution. Lady Pamela Fitzgerald was at Moira House when her husband was arrested:—

"Lady Pamela—'a stranger, an orphan herself, lovely in her appearance, great in her character, persecuted, ruined'—experienced from the Countess of Moira a degree of kindness which, according to Colonel Napier, 'surpassed, in every sense of the word, that of common mothers,' and she continued to reside at 'Moira House' till obliged by an order of the Privy Council to retire to England, where she became the guest of the Duke of Richmond.

"Lord Moira strenuously opposed and protested in the house of Peers against the Union, after which he continued to take an active part in English politics, till appointed, in 1813, Governor General of India, his administration of which, as Marquis of Hastings, was distinguished by the subjection of the Mahrattas and Pindarees.

"After the withdrawal of Lord Moira from Dublin, the mansion on Ussher's Island was occupied by the Dowager Countess, who is stated to have been a woman of noble mind, possessed not only of good but great sentiments, and entertaining notions not of family but of royal consequence. Moore speaks of her as the 'enlightened friend of Ireland,' and tells us that he derived the subjects of some of his Melodies from certain translations from the Irish, executed under her direction.

"Moira House," which was maintained as a family mansion for some years subsequent to the death of the Countess in 1808, was let in 1826 to the Governors of the Institution for the suppression of Mendicancy in Dublin. Under the superintendence of this body, the upper story of the edifice was taken off, the magnificent internal deco-

rations removed, the handsome gardens covered with offices; and every measure adopted to render it a fitting receptacle for the most wretched paupers—thus verifying Wesley's presage that the splendours of 'Moir House' were destined to pass away like a dream."

In the appendix to this volume Mr. Gilbert prints various remarkable documents illustrative of Irish history and Dublin antiquities. His appeal on the subject of printing the Anglo-Irish statutes, and other documents of national value, deserve favourable consideration from the Government, coming from one who has bestowed great labour and displayed much learning and industry in his own study and use of such records.

#### NOTICES.

*A Century of Verses in Memory of the Rev. Dr. Routh, President of Magdalen College, Oxford.* By the Rev. John W. Burgon, M.A., Fellow of Oriel. J. H. Parker.

MR. BURGON has caused his reverent admiration and his affectionate remembrance of the venerable President of Magdalen to flow into the artificial channel of a cento. Dr. Routh lived almost to see a hundred years, with which age fitly corresponds the length of the poem. Of the century of verses we quote the last forty, in which the person of the venerable patriarch, his character and pursuits, are strikingly and truthfully described.

"Calm life, that labouring in forgotten fields  
Durst live the sweets of each! calm happy life  
Of learned leisure and long studious days,  
Spent in a curious Paradise of Books;  
How wert thou spared to witness to the sons  
The manners and the wisdom of their sires!  
Resembling more some marvel of the past  
Than aught of modern fashion. Let me long  
Cherish thy precious memory! long retain  
The image of thy venerable form  
Sitting beneath its century of years,  
And wrapped in solemn academic robes,  
Cassock, and scarf, and buckles, bands and wig,  
And such a face as none beheld before  
Save in an ancient frame on College walls,  
And heard of as 'the portrait of a grave  
And learn'd Divine who flourished years ago.'

Yet would thy sunken eye shine bright as day  
If haply some one touched thy favourite theme—  
The martyred Monarch's fortunes and his times—  
Yet brighter, if the memories of thy youth  
Were quickened into sudden life: but most  
'Twas joy to hear thy solemn voice descend  
Of Fathers, Councils, and the page Divine:  
For then thy words were precious and well weighed,  
Oracular with wisdom. Or if men  
And manners were thy theme,—scholars and wits,  
The idols of past years,—how rich thy vein!  
Thy speech how courteous, classical, and kind!  
Each story new because so wondrous old:  
And each particular exactly given,  
The name, the place, the author, yea the page,—  
Nought was forgotten. 'But I tire you, Sir,'  
(So would he say): 'I fear I tire you, Sir?'  
'An old man, Sir!'—while one's heart danced for joy.

He sleeps before the altar, where the shade  
He loved will guard his slumbers night and day:  
And tuneful voices o'er him, like a dirge,  
Will float for everlastingly. Fitting close  
For such a life! His twelve long sunny hours  
Bright to the edge of darkness: then, the calm  
Repose of twilight, and a crown of stars."

Of Dr. Routh as an academic dignitary, a learned scholar, and a grave divine, this poem forms a pleasing and appropriate memorial. At Oxford, where he spent most of his long and studious life, and at Durham, which he has enriched with his library, we presume that memorials of other kinds will be provided.

*A History of the Book of Common Prayer, with a Rationale of its Offices.* By the Rev. Francis Procter, M.A. Cambridge: Macmillan.

ALTHOUGH much has been written on the History and Rationale of the Book of Common Prayer, there was still wanting a single volume, which, in a systematic way, and within a reasonable compass, could convey to the student the information desirable on this subject. Of late years everything pertaining to the Anglican ritual has been subjected to much learned research and to keen controversy, and much has been added to the knowledge derived from the older works of Strype,

Wheatley, Nicholls, and Comber. The recent publications of the Parker Society have brought to light many historical facts connected with the times of the early English Reformation; and in such works as Cardwell's 'Documentary Annals, 1546—1716,' Palmer's 'Origines Liturgicæ,' and Maskell's 'Monumenta Ritualia,' the origin and construction of the Anglican ritual have been fully elucidated. From these and other authorities, duly acknowledged, Mr. Procter has prepared his useful volume, which forms one of the new series of 'Theological Manuals' published by Macmillan of Cambridge. The work is divided into two parts; the first presents the general history of the Book of Common Prayer, commencing with notices of the service-books in use in England before the Reformation, and then tracing the history of the Prayer Book from the reign of Edward VI. to the accession of William III.; part second treats of the sources and rationale of the several offices taken in order as they appear in the Prayer Book. In the historical part of Mr. Procter's book we find fulness and accuracy of information, and are at the same time pleased with the fairness of statement and clearness of exposition on questions of doctrinal controversy. A writer of more extreme views, or less cautious in the expression of them, could not have prepared a students' manual so well adapted as this is for common use. In the appendix is an abstract of the proposed alterations in the Liturgy prepared by the Royal Commissioners in 1689. It was believed that this important document was lost; it was discovered last year in the library at Lambeth Palace. The leading points of the document are given by Mr. Procter in his appendix. Another article in the appendix treats of the State holiday services. A well-arranged index facilitates reference to the contents of the manual.

*General Map of Europe, constructed from the best Authorities, and comprising the latest Additions and Rectifications.* By A. Keith Johnston, F.R.S.E. Blackwood and Sons.

THIS is an elaborate and clear map of the busy continent of Europe, engraved on a scale of seventy-six miles to the inch, and occupying a surface of nearly four feet square, issued by the Messrs. Blackwood, on rollers, for the use of the library or school-room. It is said to comprise the latest additions and rectifications, and in looking, as the observer naturally does, to the Crimea, we see all the places with which recent events have made us familiar, and the different sea-routes thither carefully laid down. From Constantinople to Sebastopol the distance is reckoned at 350 miles, to Odessa 400 miles, and to Varna 170 miles, and all the great sea-routes traversed by the steamers of the different European states, (Russia excepted,) across the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the German Ocean, and the English Channel, are marked out with new interest. Another feature which shows in a striking manner the comparative march of science in its practical development in Europe is the delineation of railways and electric telegraphs, which in England, France, and Germany cover the face of the country with a complex network; whilst in Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Russia they are almost unknown. Great attention appears to have been given to the insertion of the names of places in different styles of type according to their relative importance, and the name of the eminent geographer by whom the map has been constructed is a high guarantee for its correctness.

*Speeches of Eminent British Statesmen during the Thirty-nine Years' Peace.* First Series. Griffin and Co.

THIS volume is the first of a series of works to be published containing specimens of the political, literary, and sacred oratory of the nineteenth century. Each of these three departments of eloquence will comprise two volumes, the speeches being generally given in chronological arrangement. The political speeches now published range from the close of the war to the passing of the Reform Bill, and include the names of Lord Liverpool, Lambton, afterwards Lord Durham, Romilly, Castlereagh,

Huskisson, Canning, Wellington, Grey, and Lord John Russell. In the second series will be given speeches of Cobett, Peel, O'Connell, Palmerston, Brougham, Derby, Disraeli, Bentinck, Lyndhurst, Macaulay, Shiel, and Cobden. In the volumes of literary oratory, addresses by many of the most distinguished men of the time on various public occasions will be collected. As a record of modern British eloquence, the work will be valuable, and will convey information on many subjects of the greatest interest and importance. In the present volume the speeches are on the treaties of 1815, the alien bill of 1818, the amendment of the criminal law, the representation of the people, and reform, Catholic emancipation, and other great public questions.

*The Electric Telegraph Popularized.* With One Hundred Illustrations. By Dionysius Lardner, D.C.L. Walton and Maberly.

THIS popular treatise, written for the Museum of Science and Art, contains a concise and satisfactory account of the Electric Telegraph, in all views of the subject, descriptive, historical, and statistical. Few writers excel Dr. Lardner in the happy art of conveying scientific truth in a popular style. The subject of the present volume is one in which general interest is felt, and on which the fullest information is here given, in a manner at once accurate and attractive. The numerous illustrations enable the reader to follow readily the scientific descriptions, and a copious index facilitates reference to the contents of the volume. The most recent information is given as to the improvements in the Electric Telegraph, and the operations of the companies by which the invention is worked for the use of the public both at home and abroad.

*The Year-Book of Facts in Science and Art.* By John Timbs, F.S.A. Bogue.

MR. TIMBS has displayed his usual industry and judgment in the compilation of the 'Year-Book of Facts in Science and Art.' All the most important discoveries and improvements of the past year are recorded, the plan being continued of selecting from various publications suitable notices. Mechanics and the useful arts, natural philosophy, electricity, chemistry, zoology and botany, geology and geography, meteorology and astronomy, are the departments specified, and there are also miscellaneous notices that can scarcely be referred to any of these leading heads. A portrait of the Astronomer Royal, and a brief account of Mr. Airy's life and works, are prefixed to the volume.

*The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe.* By Daniel Defoe. H. G. Bohn.

OF all the books which Mr. Bohn has yet printed in his various Libraries, this edition of Robinson Crusoe is likely to have the widest circulation. The book itself is one of perennial freshness, delighting youth and age alike, and as full of instruction as it is of entertainment. This edition is illustrated with seventy woodcuts, chiefly after designs by Harvey, and twelve steel engravings after the well-known designs of Stothard. A biographical sketch of Defoe is prefixed.

#### SUMMARY.

AN inaugural lecture *On the Academical Study of Latin*, delivered in the Theatre, Oxford, by John Conington, M.A., Professor of the Latin Language and Literature (John W. Parker and Son), treats of the objects and advantages of this department of study, with practical hints on the method of teaching contemplated by the author. The Professorship of Latin was constituted by a statute which passed Convocation March 14th, 1854. Mr. Conington rightly states that the study of Latin has been too much neglected at the English universities. Formerly it was the vernacular tongue of the commonwealth of letters, and since it has been superseded in this respect by the use of modern languages, less attention has been given to its own treasures of knowledge, although still so much used as an instrument of mental discipline and classical education. The lecturer shows the claims of the Latin language and literature to be

more systematically and philosophically studied, on historical and philological as well as literary grounds. His remarks deserve the notice of all who are interested in the improvement of academic education.

A collection of readings, in prose and verse, is made, by G. Macdonald, under the title of *Gleanings for the People, from Interesting and Instructive Works* (Johnstone and Hunter). The choice of extracts is not made with much judgment, although there could scarcely fail, in the course of the volume, to appear some acceptable pieces.

The new volume of the collected *Works of Edmund Burke*, in Bohn's British Classics (H. G. Bohn), contains his Political Miscellanies, including the speeches on Fox's Indian Bill, and on Economical Reform, the Reflections on the French Revolution, and Letter to a Member of the National Assembly. In the Classical Library is given an English translation of *Suetonius' Lives of the Cæsars*, with the Lives of the Grammarians, Rhetoricians, and Poets. The translation is that of Alexander Thomson, M.D., first published in 1796, now revised and corrected, with notes, by J. Forster, Esq., A.M.

In the Philological Library, volume third is published of the works of *Philo Judæus*, translated from the Greek by C. D. Yonge, B.A. This volume contains the treatise on the life and writings of Moses. In the Standard Library the second volume of *Condé's History of the Arabs in Spain*, translated by Mrs. Jonathan Foster.

A second edition is published of *The Alpha* (Clarke and Beeton), or First Principles of the Human Mind, as revealed to Ramus Randolph in a Reverie, and verified to his satisfaction in a Dream; being a Philosophical Inquiry into the Constitution of Human Happiness, and the Nature of Truth; by Edward N. Denny. Of the extraordinary book bearing the foregoing title we gave some account at the time of its first appearance (L. G. 1851, p. 13). It contains some ingenious speculations and eloquent writing; but it is anything but a "philosophical" treatise. In a long preface to this edition, the author examines some of the criticisms passed on his work, and replies to them; but he takes care to avoid any of the real objections to his "philosophical inquiry." His speculations stand in the same relation to true mental philosophy as the dreams of alchemy to the facts of modern chemistry. Where the light of inductive research fails in the inquiry after truth and happiness, we have the sure word of revelation to guide us. But according to Mr. Denny, "the one truth which Christ did not teach is taught in this philosophy," and "had Paul known the truth instead of guessing at it, there would have been no need of 'The Alpha.'" In this spirit was the work first written; and the maturer studies of the author are not marked by an increase of wisdom or humility.

Volumes third and fourth of *Sermons* by the Rev. Robert Gordon, D.D., F.R.S.E., *Christ as made known to the Ancient Church*, an exposition of the revelation of divine grace as unfolded in the Old Testament scriptures (Johnstone and Hunter), complete the posthumous works of this Scottish divine. Dr. Gordon was distinguished for intellectual power and philosophical spirit; his expectations of scripture were rich in their matter, earnest in their tone, and practical in their application; his eloquence was chaste and dignified, and his diction terse and masculine. These characteristics of the living preacher appear in the discourses on the Old Testament. The former volumes we noticed (L. G. 1854, p. 421) at the time of their publication.

The monthly parts of the *Liverpool Photographic Journal* for 1854 (Liverpool: Greenwood. London: Horne and Thornthwaite), are published—a volume which contains a great variety of matter for those interested in photography. Liverpool has taken a high place in the cultivation of the art, and it was right that the Society should have a separate journal for recording their proceedings, and for preserving papers and communications of value. At the time of the meeting of the British Association last year, we had opportunity of

observing the high success attained in every branch of the art by the Liverpool photographers. This journal will further make known their operations and proceedings.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Alford's (H.) *Quebec Chapel Sermons*, Vol. 2, 12mo, cl., 5s.  
 Memoir, 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
 Allen's (J.) *Israel's Restoration*, 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Archbold's (J.F.) *Parish Officer*, 2nd edit., 12mo, cloth, 10s.  
 Beginning Without an End, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
 Bell's (J.M.) *Joint Stock Banking*, 8vo, cl., 2nd ed., 6s. 6d.  
 Brewer's *Guide to the Mythology of Ancient Greece*, cl., 4s.  
 Canton's (E.) *Surgical and Pathological Observations*, 7s.  
 Chalmers' (Dr.) *Sermons*, Vol. 1, cr. 8vo, cl., 6s. sewed, 2s. 6d.  
 Cicerone de Officiis, 12mo, cloth, 2s.  
 Dennistoun's *Memoirs of Strange and Lumsden*, 2 v., 41 1s.  
 Dunwell's *Parochial Lectures on the Psalms*, 8vo, cloth, 6s.  
 Edmund's (Rev. J.) *Seven Lent Lectures*, fcap. 8vo, cl., 3s. 6d.  
 Fenn on the Funds, 8th edition, 12mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
 First Steps to the British Flora, square 16mo, cloth, 5s. 6d.  
 Gay (J.) on Indolent Ulcers, post 8vo, cloth, 4s.  
 Gilly's (W.S.) *Memoir of Felix Neff*, 12mo, cl., 6th ed., 5s. 6d.  
 Goethe's *Faust*, fcap., cloth, 4s.  
 Grace Lee, 3 vols., post 8vo, cloth, 41 11s. 6d.  
 Grey's (Sir G.) *Polynesian Mythology*, post 8vo, cl., 10s. 6d.  
 Hellas, from the German of Jacobs, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 4s. 6d.  
 Hymns from the Land of Luther, square, cloth, 2s.  
 Leech's (W.) *Nervousness, &c.*, royal 12mo, cloth, 2s.  
 Leibnitz's *Refutation of Spinoza*, crown 8vo, cloth, 3s.  
 Lent Readings, 2nd edition, fcap., cloth, 6s.  
 Lord's (J.) *School History of Modern Europe*, cr. 8vo, 5s.  
 Monod's (A.) *God is Love*, 16mo, sewed, 1s. 6d.  
 Montgomery's (J.) *Poetical Works*, new ed., Vol. 2, 3s. 6d.  
 Morton's *Cyclo. of Agriculture*, 2 vols., royal 8vo, cl., 42 16s.  
 Muffling's *Narrative of Missions to Constantinople*, 4s. 6d.  
 Our Native Land, 2 vols., 18mo, cloth, 2s.  
 Oxford Pocket Classics, Cicero de Officiis, 18mo, cloth, 2s.  
 Short Notes to *Æschylus*, 18mo, 3s. 6d.  
 Paton's (A.A.) *Bulgaria, &c.*, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.  
 Plurality of Worlds, 4th edition, 12mo, cloth, 6s.  
 Protoplast (The) 2nd edition, crown 8vo, cloth, 9s. 6d.  
 Roget's *Thesaurus*, 3rd edition, post 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.  
 Schacht (H.) on the Microscope, 2nd edition, p. 8vo, cl., 6s.  
 Scriptural Instruction for the Least & Lowest; New Test., 3s.  
 Seven Fairy Tales, square, 16mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
 Stewart's (D.) *Works*, 8vo, cloth, Vol. 5, 12s.  
 Stoke's (H.) *Echoes of the War*, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
 Taylor's (H.) *Philip Van Artevelde*, 1 vol., fcap., cl., 3s. 6d.  
 Edwin the Fair, fcap., cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Thirlwall's *Greece*, 3rd edition, 8vo, cloth, Vol. 2, 7s. 6d.  
 Trench's *English, Past and Present*, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Whately's *Political Economy*, 4th edition, 8vo, boards, 8s.  
 Wilson's (A.S.) on the Unity of Matter, post 8vo, cloth, 3s.  
 Young's (J.R.) *Introduction to Algebra*, 2nd ed., 12mo, 3s.

#### 'THE TIMES' AND THE NEWSPAPER STAMP.

A BILL has been brought before Parliament by Mr. Gladstone for the abolition of the newspaper stamp, and the introduction, instead, of a stamp which need only be used on copies requiring to be transmitted through the post. Literary papers, like our own, have always been allowed to be circulated on unstamped paper when delivered by hand, but papers printing commercial and political news are required to be stamped, whether transmitted through the post or not. The fairness of only requiring a stamp where means of transmission is provided, as in the case of letters, is so obvious, that no one entertains a doubt that the bill, so far as this principle is concerned, will pass into a law. But the bill enacts, and again we say, with great fairness, that the penny stamp shall cover the transmission of a weight of four ounces, and for any excess of that weight there shall be a payment in excess, as in the case of letters. Now it happens that 'The Times' newspaper, with its supplementary sheet, weighs about five ounces, and with two supplementary sheets six ounces, and an ingenious, but most fallacious argument is put forth by the proprietors of that journal, with a view to show that they are to be charged more for transmission, because they give to the public more matter than is given in the other morning journals for the same money. "We sell a cheaper and better article than they, and therefore we are to be loaded with a taxation from which they are exempt." We wish to disabuse the public mind of the fallacy of this argument. 'The Times' rarely prints more news, or, to speak to the purpose, more purchased matter, than the other morning papers. 'The Times' only requires an excess of four ounces for its revenue matter—for its supplementary sheets of advertisements,—and why should the Government be called upon to transmit for nothing that excess of weight which arises only from their excess of profits? We

will undertake to say that a weight of a quarter of a pound is sufficient to cover at any time the transmission of all that portion of 'The Times' newspaper which is collected at so "vast an expense," and is considered such "an indispensable part of every day's recreation," and allow weight for a good sprinkling of advertisements besides, and we trust that neither the House of Commons nor the public will be so blind as not to see through the chicanery of 'The Times' argument. Mr. Gladstone proposes that a weight of six ounces should be allowed to 'The Times' for ten years to come; but why this concession?

#### OUR NATIONAL ANTIQUITIES.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

Strood, 20th Feb. 1855.

SIR,—I much approve of your remarks on our National Antiquities, and particularly those respecting the rejection by the trustees of them of the Faussett Anglo-Saxon collection excavated from our Kentish barrows. The British Museum is not what the name implies, and the Trustees seem to devote far greater attention to foreign antiquities than to those of our own nation—a fact to be deeply deplored by every true lover of his country. Another chance, I hear, is now afforded them of in some degree redeeming their character and remedying their inconsistencies. I am informed that the well-known museum of London antiquities, collected by Mr. Roach Smith, has been offered to the nation through the said Trustees. You perhaps can say if such report be true. If it be, one would think we should ere long not only have it officially announced, but also that the offer had been accepted at any price, for the British Museum is the only fit receptacle of such a collection. I am, &c.

H. WICKHAM.

\* \* We believe there is some truth in the report to which our correspondent refers, and it will be seen, by the notice we have this day given of Mr. Roach Smith's collection of London Antiquities, how highly we estimate it as a national monument. A rumour has, however, reached us that the sum asked for it is 3000*l.*, which seems excessive, and puts the matter in a very different light from that of the Faussett Collection of Anglo-Saxon Antiquities, valued at 700*l.* If Mr. C. Roach Smith will be patriotic enough to offer his collection to the Trustees of the British Museum at a valuation to be agreed upon by two chosen umpires, archaeologists will applaud the deed, and the Trustees will have much to answer for if the offer is refused. We cannot agree with our correspondent that the offer should be accepted "at any price."

#### THE BERNAL COLLECTION.

THE Council of the Society of Arts has presented a petition to the House of Commons, calling attention to a collection of works of art, extending from the Byzantine period to that of Louis Seize, which consists of upwards of four thousand specimens of Oriental, Dresden, Sevres, German, and Cape di Monte porcelain; of historical portraits and miniatures; of mediæval metal work and ecclesiastical plate; jewellery; of Limoges, Dresden, and Oriental enamels; of carvings in ivory; of Faenza and Palissy ware; of armour, arms, and stained glass; Venetian and German glass, and Gris de Flandres; of watches and clocks, and of ancient furniture. The Council point out:—

- 1st. That these numerous objects have been collected by the late Mr. Ralph Bernal, member of your Honourable House, and Chairman of its Committees for a long period, and are advertised to be sold by public auction on the 5th of March.
- 2nd. That the said collection has been made by Mr. Bernal with a sound judgment and great knowledge, rarely found, and would be a most valuable acquisition for the nation, calculated to improve public taste, and advance the arts and manufactures of the country.
- 3rd. That such a collection being secured for

the use of the country, would supply many of those deficiencies in the national collections which place its museums far below those of other European nations, and might be made particularly useful at the provincial seats of manufacture.

4th. That in many branches the said collection is superior even to the collections of the Louvre, of Dresden, Berlin, and Vienna, and other European museums.

5th. That, besides its educational and manufacturing importance, the purchase of the collection would be a good commercial investment, as the value of such articles is daily increasing, and is worthy of being entertained even in the present time of war, when it is sound policy not to neglect the arts of peace, as is proved by the present commercial advantages which France enjoys in the production of articles of taste,—advantages which may be ascribed, in part, to the care which France bestowed on the general artistic education of its people, without intermission, during its course of wars and revolutions.

6th. That the purchase of the said collection is well worthy the attention of your Honourable House, and might be secured, as your Petitioners believe, for about fifty thousand pounds, a sum which would not amount to a halfpenny on every hundred pounds' sterling worth of manufactures produced for export and home consumption in the year 1864.

7th. That, looking to the frequent mistakes hitherto made by past Governments, in declining the purchase of whole collections of works of art, and afterwards buying the remainders of them at greater cost than the whole, your Petitioners urge on your Honourable House that it would be the most prudent course to purchase at once the whole of the said collection, especially as duplicate specimens might hereafter be allotted among the different local museums of their country.

And the Council conclude by praying the House to vote the necessary funds to secure to the nation the benefits of the Bernal Collection.

#### TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

By the death of Joseph Hume, the country has lost one of its ablest and most useful public men. Although chiefly distinguished as a financial reformer, and as the apostle of economy in national expenditure, there have been few movements of social or political importance during the last forty years in which he has not taken an active and influential part. Mr. Hume was a genuine reformer, not in the party sense of that term as contrasted with conservative, but as the remover of discovered and acknowledged abuses. The extreme length to which he sometimes would push his economical ideas has been often condemned; but even in this respect justice is beginning to be done to his liberality as well as his prudence. It was not the amount of expenditure against which he protested, but against the reckless waste and constant misappropriation of public money. Wherever real service was to be done, no member of Parliament more readily voted abundant supplies. In all that related to the encouragement of literature, science, and art, his liberality was distinguished. For instance, to the annual vote for the British Museum he always cordially responded, and his assent was invariably given to grants for objects of scientific advantage or popular instruction. It was only when a job was to be perpetrated, or an extravagance to be committed, that the mover of a grant ever feared the opposition of Joseph Hume. In the promotion of education he took great interest, and always regretted that ecclesiastical differences hindered the full accomplishment of an object of common advantage. He gave his support effectively to the establishment of mechanics' institutes, public libraries, free schools, and other means of popular and social improvement. Although not directly known as an author, the printed records of Mr. Hume's mental labours abound in the volumes of Hansard and in the Parliamentary Blue Books. Of his life and political career the daily journals have already

given the history. It will suffice to give here a few of the leading dates. Joseph Hume was born at Montrose, in January, 1777. After serving as apprentice to a country surgeon, he studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and was appointed to the surgery of an East Indiaman in 1797. His business habits and his knowledge of Oriental languages recommended him for employment in more public positions; and during the Mahratta war and subsequent events he served as interpreter, and also in the prize agency and in the commissariat departments. He returned from India in 1809, and spent two years in travelling in England and on the Continent. In 1812 he first entered Parliament as member for Weymouth. In 1818 he sat for Aberdeen; in 1830 for Middlesex; in 1842 for Kilkenny; and from that year till his death, for Montrose, his native town.

The death is also announced of James Dennistoun, Esq., author of the 'Memoirs of the Dukes of Urbino.' Mr. Dennistoun had just completed an interesting memoir of Strange the engraver, and of his kinsman, Andrew Lumisden, in two volumes. In the preface to that work the author makes mention of an illness which had attacked him, but it was not supposed then that it would have had a fatal issue. In historical and biographical literature few writers of our day stood higher than Mr. Dennistoun.

Extraordinarily rapid progress is being made with the works for completing the Louvre at Paris—indeed, the solid masonry may be said to be already terminated. It was hoped that the entire constructions could be got ready by the time of the opening of the Grand Exhibition; but this has been found impossible, owing to the length of time which the internal decorations will require. When terminated, the Louvre and the Tuileries will form only one edifice, and it will be the most extensive, and no doubt also the most magnificent in the world. Whilst the new part of the Louvre is in preparation, no opportunity is lost of further embellishing the old. Within the last few days, the splendid Galerie d'Apollon has been ornamented with portraits of Goujon, the architect of the old Louvre, and of Coysevox, Cerneau, and Pujet, who have added to or embellished it. That of Visconti, who designed and partly executed the new constructions, will no doubt be added to them. All the portraits are, it has been determined, to be executed in tapestry at the Gobelins.

In the last published correspondence from the camp before Sebastopol, a soldier writes—"The Government of England is behaving very cruelly to the British army. More have died with cold and hunger than fell at both battles, and all through neglect." An officer writes, about the same date, "Our calamities appear to me to have been attributable not so much to the faulty character of our military system as to the neglect of all system." These are but expressions of a feeling daily gaining ground at home as well as at the camp. It is worthy of being noted that the complaints against the bad administration of the government in the public offices are of old date, the following sentences being taken from Edmund Burke's famous speech in 1780. Burke declaimed against "the corrupt influence, which is the perennial spring of all prodigality and of all disorder; which loads us more than millions of debt; which takes away vigour from our arms, wisdom from our councils, and every shadow of authority and credit from the most venerable parts of our constitution." "I have no wish to deny that our successes are as brilliant as any one chooses to make them; our resources too may be as unfathomable as they are represented. But is it altogether wise to have no other bounds to your impositions than the patience of those who have to bear them?" "Ministers are far from being wholly to blame for the present disorder which prevails. Whilst institutions directly repugnant to good management are suffered to remain, no effectual or lasting reform can be introduced." The whole of this speech of Burke is worthy of being studied at the present time, and his details of abuses in the military departments at home cannot be read without a feeling of humiliation,

when we find that the same abuses which were condemned in 1780 are suffered to continue in 1865. "Disorders," he said in the House, "disorders, Sir, and infirmities there are, such disorders that all attempts towards method, prudence, and frugality, will be perfectly vain, whilst a system of confusion remains, which is not only alien but adverse to all economy; a system which is not only prodigal in its very essence, but causes everything else which belongs to it to be prodigally conducted."

We observe in the public journals various remarks and inquiries about the last Sultan of the Crimea, Krim Gherri Khatti Gherri. A correspondent in 'Notes and Queries' says that he remembers the prince in Edinburgh in 1821-22, that he afterwards married a Scotch lady, and that it is possible that he may still be alive, and may have again taken refuge in this country. The Sultan died in the Crimea nine years ago. His widow is living at Simpheropol. His sons, officers in the Russian army, were engaged at Alma and Inkermann. The connexion of the Sultan with Edinburgh arose from his having become acquainted with the Rev. Dr. Glen, the agent of the Scottish Missionary Society in Astrachan and Southern Russia. Krim Gherri Khatti Gherri is described to us, by one who knew him well in Scotland, as having been a man of high intelligence and most amiable disposition, and who honoured in his life his christian confession.

A most useful institution exists in France, and its proceedings are every day becoming more important, and are exciting more interest amongst the public. We refer to what is called the *Société d'Acclimatation*. Its object is to introduce and naturalise in France useful plants and animals of other countries; and in execution thereof it has correspondents in all parts of the world, who communicate to it all needful information, and forward to it specimens of the animals and natural productions on which it may be considered desirable to experiment. Thanks to this Society, France has come into possession of the yaks of Thibet, which combine the utility of the cow, the ass, and the sheep; of certain species of fish peculiar to Germany and Switzerland; of silkworms from Piedmont; of goats from Algeria; of nutritious tubers and plants from South America, &c., &c. In a recent sitting of the Society, strong recommendations were made that the ass of Arabia, which, in addition to the qualities of the European ass, possesses speed; the ewes of Arabia, which feed on little, and give abundant milk; the sheep of the Kollo, which produce a vast quantity of wool; and the zebra, shall be naturalised in Western Europe. Why, in presence of this enlightened activity of the French, have we no Acclimating Society in England?

At the Royal Panopticon of Science and Art, a *conversazione* was given last Saturday evening, when a numerous company assembled on the invitation of the Council. A selection of some of the principal objects of interest in the place was exhibited, including experiments and demonstrations on electricity and magnetism, by Dr. Noad; diatomic views of the war; the oxyhydrogen microscope, and the luminous and chromatic fountain. The programme of entertainments was needlessly full, and the several lectures injudiciously long, so that most of the visitors had dispersed before the best of the exhibitions were presented. But those who stayed to see the experiments with Runkow's magnetic coil, and the luminous fountain in full play, were compensated for the previous delay, and the performances of Mr. Best on the grand organ enlivened the entertainment. The appearance of the interior of the Panopticon is now more finished, and we notice an increased number of objects deposited, but there will be required not a little enterprise and energy in the management to render the place popularly attractive. There is a limit to the interest produced by curious inventions and wonderful experiments, and more use might be made in the lecturing department of topics that come home to the business and bosoms of men. During Lent there are to be lectures on the moon, and

other astronomical demonstrations, and a performance of sacred music illustrated by dioramic views.

The great reproach under which the Imperial Library at Paris has long laboured, of having no catalogues of its immense and valuable contents, appears likely to be removed in the course of a few years. Under the direction of M. Taschereau (known in the literary world as the biographer of Molière) the drawing up of catalogues was commenced early in 1852; and it appears, from a report inserted a few days ago in the official 'Moniteur,' that the progress made in it is already not inconsiderable. Thus, the classification of the works on the history of France has been entirely completed, and the first volume of the catalogue of them has been printed; the preparation of the catalogue of medical publications, from the earliest ages to the present time, is also far advanced; manuscripts relative to the history of France have been classified and bound up into 1529 volumes; the arrangement of medals is going on satisfactorily, and one volume of the catalogue of them will soon be ready; that of maps and plans is proceeding; and that of engravings is to be commenced. To the ordinary public nothing perhaps will seem easier than the drawing up of catalogues, but in a vast establishment, to be done well, it requires great time and care. In the Bibliothèque Impériale the operation is of extraordinary difficulty, owing to the frightful confusion in which every thing has been allowed to fall, and to the vastness of the collections. This great public library, the most extensive in Europe, possesses 1,500,000 printed works, masses of manuscripts too numerous to count, the richest cabinet of medals in the world, and heaps of maps and engravings.

Notwithstanding the existence of local and metropolitan archaeological societies, the demolition of ancient buildings anticipates the work of time, and England will soon have but few monuments of past days to which she can refer. The magnates of York contemplate proposing that the Barbican at Walmgate Bar, and all that portion of the ancient city walls extending from the Bar up to the Red Tower, a very curious specimen of mediæval brick work, shall be taken down. Three of the four Barbicans have already disappeared before the march of improvement, and the gateway into the Minster Close has shared the same fate, as have also the Chapel of St. William, the postern and bridge at Layerthorpe, the postern at Castlegate, and other buildings of architectural and historical interest. Should the proposition for destruction be carried in the city council, it is intended to level the mound and moat, and cover the site with modern tenements. The Barbican of Walmgate Bar is the last of the few similar erections which once existed in this time-honoured and renowned city. On the occasion of the last repairs of the city walls, a liberal donation was received from Major Yarbrough and other persons, on the conditions that the Walmgate Barbican should be preserved, conditions which were then accepted by the city council, but which their successors in office now repudiate. The Yorkshire Architectural Society have protested loudly against this breach of faith, and the destruction of so much that renders York an object of interest to the tourist, the antiquary, and the architect, and we learn that a petition to the city council is now in the course of signature.

A sermon was preached in St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, the 4th inst., by the Rev. Canon Dale, on the Fires of Smithfield, on the occasion of the tricentenary of the martyrdom of Rogers, and other Protestant confessors. A subscription is now being made for the erection of a monument in Smithfield to the memory of the martyrs of the Reformation. It is well that events so celebrated in the history of England should be honoured with a monumental memorial, but it ought in fairness to be remembered, when we speak of the fires of Smithfield, that there was Protestant as well as Papist intolerance in those times, and that Elizabeth sent martyrs to the stake as well as Mary. Instead of turning the present occasion merely to an ecclesiastical triumph, the Smithfield monument may well commemorate the happy change to an age of freedom of conscience and of religious toleration.

M. Isidore Geoffroy Saint Hilaire, the French naturalist, and one of the professors of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, has created some sensation in that city by delivering two lectures on the advisability of eating horse-flesh. The horse, he says, is herbivorous; he eats nothing that is deleterious; and his flesh is full of azote; therefore there is no reason why he should not serve for food as well as the sheep and the ox. The old Scandinavians and the Germans, he says, used to eat horse-flesh regularly, and some of their most solemn banquets were on horses they had sacrificed to Odin; the nomad tribes of Northern Asia eat horse-flesh; and at Copenhagen at this very moment the sale of horse-flesh takes place publicly;—therefore he contends that the existing prejudice against it is absurd. He even adds that Baron Larrey, Napoleon's great military surgeon, has recorded that horse-flesh was the very best thing he could give to his wounded soldiers, and that in Egypt he cured a great many sick by feeding them on it. Finally, the learned professor declares that horse-flesh would be found cheap as well as nutritious.

The 'Plurality of Worlds,' by Mr. J. S. Smith, announced in Messrs. John W. Parker and Son's list of new publications, is, we are informed, one of these publishers' series of 'Oxford Essays,' and has nothing to do with 'The Plurality of Worlds,' ascribed, and we believe rightly so, to Dr. Whewell. It would have been as well to have avoided introducing a plurality of works under the same title.

Mr. Samuel Cousins has been elected a Royal Academician, being the first instance of an engraver having been raised to that honour; and the Rev. Henry Christmas, F.R.S., has been appointed to the Professorship of British History and Archaeology, newly established by the Royal Society of Literature.

Mr. Layard has been proposed as the successor of Colonel Sykes as Lord Rector of Marischal College, Aberdeen. The office was held the year previously by Mr. Joseph Hume.

Froment Meurice, the well known Paris silversmith, has just died. He merits the honour of a mention in a literary journal on account of his artistic skill—he was, in fact, the modern Benvenuto Cellini.

This year's Congress of the Archaeological Society of France has been fixed for the 21st May, at Chalons sur Marne.

Meyerbeer's *Etoile du Nord* has just passed the one hundredth representation at the Opéra Comique at Paris, and its attraction appears unabated. Dresden must now be added to the German towns in which this remarkable work has been produced and applauded.

Madame Viardot, whose retirement from the operatic stage has been talked of for some time past, appears to have abandoned her intention, as she has been engaged at the Italian Theatre at Paris.

A little comic opera, called *Miss Fauvette*, in one act, the music by Victor Massé, has been produced at the Opéra Comique at Paris. Its success was very great, and that success was deserved. The piece is gaily written, and the music is gay and sprightly, as opera-comique music should be. The hero of it is one of those eccentric Englishmen who, we thought, had ceased to figure on the French stage since the alliance came into fashion. The poor man has wandered the wide world through in search of amusement and contentment, but has not been able to find them anywhere;—Italy being too hot, Russia too cold, Holland too dull, and France too noisy—books being a bore, and society a nuisance. At length he buries himself in a by-street in Paris, but is pestered out of his life by finding lodged near him a gay young damsel, who sings incessantly from morning to night. The poor man detests music and singing, and the piece turns on his efforts to silence *Miss Lark*, as he calls the chanteuse.

There is not much of importance to note this week in the English drama. A light and amusing piece, apparently of French origin, *Too much of a Good Thing*, has been played at the Lyceum. At St. James's Theatre a new version, by Mr. Reade,

has been produced of the French play, which has already been presented under the name of *The Tragedy Queen*. The piece is entitled *Art*, and the chief character, *Mrs. Oldfield*, is sustained admirably by Mrs. Seymour. At the Adelphi, Auber's ballet opera, *The Unknown and the Bayadere*, is a great attraction, from the dancing of Mdles. Maraquita and Benoni. At the Haymarket, a new troupe of Spanish dancers, headed by the favourite Perea Nena, commence their performances next week. At Drury Lane, the adaptation of Meyerbeer's opera, *L'Etoile du Nord*, is to be produced on Monday evening.

The dramatic week at Paris has not been very important. The only novelties worth mentioning are two *grosses farces*, by that great farceur, H. Monnier, at the Théâtre du Palais Royal. In both, as usual, he caricatures unfortunate Parisians with great vigour, and plays in both himself with all his usual talent. At the Cirque Olympique there has besides been produced a grand military drama, the scene of which is laid at Lahore.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Feb. 3rd.—W.H. Blaauw, Esq., in the chair. The theory of the supposed ancient currency of Ireland, in the form of rings of various sizes, was brought under consideration. Some antiquaries have attached much importance to the fact that rings of gold and other metals are used in various parts of Africa in lieu of money, but it does not appear to have been known how large are the quantities of such circulating medium supplied from this country for the African market. Mr. Hawkes sent a specimen of these rings, known as manillas, precisely similar to those found in Ireland. An account of the manufacture was also given by Mr. Smith, of the Waterloo Foundry at Birmingham, who stated that upwards of 300 tons are sent out to Africa in the course of the year. Formerly they were formed of iron, but a mixed and sonorous metal is now preferred by the native traders; the rings are of various sizes, but are strictly conformable to a certain form, without which they would not be received by the Africans. They resemble the ornaments of gold and bronze with dilated ends found in England, and more frequently in Ireland, and suited in size to be used as armlets. Dr. Bell gave a notice of the establishment of a collection of Roman and German antiquities at Mayence, and of another, comprising mediæval objects, at Nuremberg, according to the plan originated at the Congress of Archaeological and Historical Societies at Mayence, in 1852. The collections at Mayence have been placed under the charge of a talented painter and antiquary, M. Lindenschmidt, who, with the view of enabling the student to compare the rare types of the earlier antiquities preserved in various remote depositories, has devised most successfully a means of producing facsimiles with the most perfect accuracy. Dr. Bell produced some of these ingenious productions, taken from objects of bronze—a richly jewelled brooch, a bronze vase of very peculiar form, &c.,—discovered in Bavaria and Hanover. Not only the minutest details of workmanship, but the metallic appearance is perfectly given by M. Lindenschmidt, the deficiency of weight alone indicating that these casts are merely imitations of the unique originals. For the purposes of comparison they have been found of great utility. Mr. Ashurst Majendie described some memorials of the ancient family of De Vere, and produced an elaborate drawing of the monument of John, fifteenth Earl of Oxford, and his countess, a fine work of sculpture of the renaissance style, no mixture of Gothic ornament being discernible. The tomb is of black marble, or touch-stone, and exists at Castle Hedingham, Essex. The Earl died in 1559. Mr. Majendie brought also drawings of the sculptured chimney-piece formerly at Gosfield Hall, Essex, and removed to that curious old mansion from Bois Hall, one of the seats of the De Veres. It represents the Battle of Bosworth Field; Richard III. appears prostrate in the foreground,

and on either side are the chief partizans, distinguished by their emblazoned shields. Amongst them appear the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Northumberland, Sir W. Herbert, and other adherents of the king; and with the victor are seen the Earl of Oxford, Lord Stanley, and his brother, Sir W. Brandon, and Sir Gilbert Talbot. The statues of Henry VII. and his queen, of large size, are introduced at the sides of this curious sculpture, occupying the space over the fireplace. It is not known whether this remarkable work of art now exists; it was removed from Gosfield by the Marquis of Buckingham, and taken, as supposed, to Stowe, but Mr. Majendie had been unable to ascertain that it had been preserved. The Dean of Carlisle communicated the recent discovery of a stone cross, built into the wall at Carlisle Cathedral, in a part of that structure built about the year 1300. A drawing of this early Christian relic, which has been brought to light during the works of restoration now in progress, was sent by Mr. Purday, clerk of the works, who stated that this cross had been assigned by some persons to the time when the cathedral was rebuilt by Egfrid, king of Northumberland in the seventh century. An interesting historical sketch of the cathedral has been lately published by the Dean. The Rev. H. Scarth sent facsimiles, taken by means of moistened paper, from the Roman tablet lately found at Bath, and Mr. Franks stated the grounds of his belief that the inscription must be assigned to the time of Heliogabalus. The monuments of that Emperor were generally defaced after his disgraceful end, and on a tablet found near the Roman wall, as described by Dr. Bruce, his name had been carefully erased. Another remarkable addition to the Roman inscriptions found in England was sent by the Rev. W. Gunner. It is an altar dedicated to the Dæe Matres, and discovered at Winchester. Mr. Westwood observed, that even in the present eventful crisis the French Government had, as he was assured, instituted a commission to collect and preserve the vestiges of Roman times in France; whilst in our country the memorials of past times, Roman, Saxon, or mediæval, were alike disregarded, and no precautions taken by Government authority for their preservation, however valuable they prove to be as auxiliaries to historical inquiry. The Hon. R. Neville sent a short account of the latest results of his investigations at Chesterford, where he had disinterred various valuable additions to his museum at Audley End, comprising Roman urns, a glass vase, with numerous vestiges of Roman usages and manufactures. Some ancient French enamels were brought by the Rev. W. Sneyd; a Venetian salver of damascened metal, by Mr. Hawkins, with a richly sculptured ivory casket of oriental work, similar to one preserved in the treasury of Sens Cathedral. Mr. Brackstone produced various antiquities from Ireland—brooches, ring-money, and bronze weapons. Mr. Tite sent two volumes printed by Caxton, some of the best preserved productions of his press, and especially curious on account of the woodcuts by which they are illustrated. The Rev. T. Hugo brought a Russian or Greek folding-altar of brass, with sacred subjects in relief, found in the churchyard of Christ Church, Spitalfields; and Captain Oakes produced a diminutive watch in form of a shell, with a reliquary and miniature portrait of Charles I., once worn probably by some staunch royalist.

**SOCIETY OF ARTS.**—Feb. 7th.—S. F. Gibson Esq., in the chair. The paper read was 'The Commercial Consideration of the Silkworm and its Products,' by Mr. Thomas Dickens. Though this manufacture engages perhaps fifty millions of our capital and employs about one million of our population, and though the worm has given us the most perfect and most beautiful of all fibres, each worm affording about five hundred or six hundred yards of usable quality; yet, owing to the defective process of the first operation, we have had a raw material so comparatively imperfect that no industry or skill could well remedy the

defects, differing in this respect from other fibrous materials, as cotton, wool, flax. Manufacturers, in their efforts to cheapen their productions and extend their trade, have resorted to the expedient of reducing the weavers' wages, instead of directing their attention in the first instance to the raw material. It had, indeed, been asserted in the reeling districts of France and Italy that the cocoons could not be transported from one country to another; that a southern climate was most essential; that reeling could not be properly carried on in wet or damp weather; and that even a cloudy day affected the quality of the silk. Such were the objections so universally given and believed, that no silk merchant or manufacturer in this country (with but one exception) ever thought of silk being otherwise produced. The French reelers, however, partially solved the question. Wanting more silk than they were producing, they directed their attention to the rich and beautiful plantations of Greece and Syria. Commercial and profitable considerations soon taught them how to dry and pack the cocoons without injury. In a very short time they established houses in these countries, and imported thence immense quantities of cocoons, and reeled them in their own filatures, so that our manufacturers have been using many thousand pounds of so-called French silk reeled from Greek or Turkish cocoons. This disposed of one objection. As for the others, it was perfectly possible to create any climate in our factories, moist, dry, hot, or cold. By a new process, the invention of Mr. John Chadwick of Manchester, and the practical development of which was due to the author, two or three of the usual operations in silkwinding and throwing are dispensed with. The cocoons are softened and prepared as usual, and any required quantity reeled together; but instead of winding the silk at excessive speed, and consequently with much tension, into hanks, it is wound direct and slowly to the bobbins, and any amount of spin that may be required is imparted in its course thither. The combined thread very seldom breaks in its course to the bobbin, the separate filaments only occasionally, but as the cocoons successively fail or are wound off, they are replaced, the filament of the new cocoons attaching directly to the others, and being at the same time incorporated with them by the continuous spin. The thread, being thus maintained in its strength and size by placing in the new filaments, as needed, is free from all the knots at present inevitable in raw silk-winding. The loose hank of raw silk was thus dispensed with, and the thread was spun at the same time that it was reeled. By this process there was a more complete extraction of the silk from the cocoon, a greater amount of tenacity and elasticity in the thread, a freedom from knots, and a saving of several shillings per pound with a superior quality. The author believed that there would be no difficulty in obtaining an ample supply of cocoons, as he had already received them from China, India, Syria, Greece, and Spain, and it was well known that the silk producing countries of the world even now far exceeded in extent the cotton growing districts. But it had been shown by a gentleman in Cornwall, Mr. J. Hodson, that very excellent silk might be produced in this country, and Sir John Bowring had stated that nature had been so considerate and bountiful in regard to the silk culture, that she has provided a mulberry tree for every moderate climate, and that the entire temperate zones had mulberry trees indigenous to their respective localities. Mr. Hodson gives the preference to the common black, as being the most hardy, and therefore the most suitable to our climate. After the reading of the paper, Mr. P. Le Neve Foster (the Secretary) gave a summary of the information received through his Excellency Sir William Reid, the Governor of Malta, in reference to the culture of the *Bombyx cynthia*, or Eria silkworm of Assam in that island. This worm, it appeared, would feed equally well on five vegetable substances—the castor-oil plant, the mulberry, the lettuce, the willow, and the wild chicory. It had been successfully reproduced, not only in Malta, but in Turin, and

also in Grenada, in the West Indies. Mr. P. L. Simmonds made some interesting remarks upon the new fields for commerce in silk, and expressed his opinion that it was desirable that other moths should be examined with a view to ascertain their capabilities in this respect. In the discussion which followed, Mr. I. J. Frith, Mr. Pearsall, Mr. Winkworth, Mr. Hendrie, Mr. Graham, Mr. Vavasour, Mr. Dickens, and the chairman took part.

**LINNEAN.**—Feb. 6th.—Thomas Bell, Esq., President, in the chair. William Freeman Daniell, Esq., M.D., and William Gourlie, Esq., were elected Fellows. Mr. Westwood, F.L.S., exhibited some cocoons, and living chrysalides of the Eria silkworm of India, which feeds on the castor-oil plant, and which he had received from the Governor of Malta, through Dr. Templeton; this being the species, the introduction and cultivation of which, in Malta, Italy, and the south of Europe, was now attracting so much attention in those countries, as proved by the numerous communications presented within the last few months to the Académie des Sciences at Paris, by Marshal Vaillant, French Minister of War, Messrs. Milne-Edwards, Guérin-Méneville, J. Geof. St. Hilaire, Duméril, Montagne, &c. An extract was read, communicated by Major-General Hearsey, from the Journal of the Asiatic Society, on the peculiarities of the silk of this species of moth, the natural history of which, as well as of the Tusseh silk-moth of India, formed the subject of an excellent memoir by Dr. Roxburgh, in the 'Trans. Linn. Soc.' vol. vii. On examining the cocoons, Mr. Westwood had observed that, unlike those of the common silkworm and most other moths, which were of an entire, oval form, these cocoons were open at one end, which was protected by a series of converging elastic threads (like the mouth of a rat-trap), a peculiarity which had been long observed in the cocoons of the common Emperor moth, *Saturnia pavonia minor*. This peculiarity, which had also been noticed by M. Duméril, had been supposed to have for its object the introduction of air to the interior of the cocoon, and also the prevention of the ingress of parasitic *Ichneumonidae*, &c. Neither of these theories was, however, considered by Mr. Westwood as conclusive; he thought rather that it was connected with the discharge of the fluid which most insects emit immediately after arriving at the perfect state. The circumstance is, however, of practical importance in the Eria moth, as it allows the egress of the perfect insect, without injuring the thread of the cocoon, as is the case when the common silk-worm moth of the mulberry is allowed to escape from its cocoon. It is, however, not of so great practical importance as might be at first supposed, as the silk-growers never allow the cocoons intended for winding to produce the moth, still those cocoons which were set aside in order to obtain the perfect insects for breeding from, would also remain uninjured after the escape of the moths. Read,—the commencement of a memoir, 'On the Structure, and A finities of the Root-Parasites of the Natural Order *Balanophorea*,' by Joseph Dalton Hooker, Esq., M.D., F.R.S. and L.S.

**GEOGRAPHICAL.**—Feb. 12th.—Rear-Admiral Beechey, F.R.S., &c., in the chair. Mr. Frederick S. Day and Dr. R. B. Grinrod were elected Fellows. Admiral Smyth, Mr. Osborne Smith, and Mr. T. H. Brooking were appointed Auditors for the year. The Chairman directed the attention of the meeting to the illustrations, by Dr. Baikie and Mr. May, R.N., of the Chaddaand country adjoining; to the drawings of Mr. M'Gregor Laird's screw-steamer the Pleiad, which had so successfully ascended that river; to the map by Mr. Anderson, showing his route in South Africa; to some specimens of the gold manufacture of Timbuctoo, exhibited by Mr. Renshaw; and to several maps by Mr. Arrowsmith, to accompany the forthcoming volume of the Society's Journal. The papers read were—1. 'On the Sources of the Purus, a great Tributary of the Amazon.' By Mr. Clement R.

Markham, F.R.G.S. 2. 'Report on the Arrival of the Chadda Expedition under Dr. Baikie, R.N.', communicated by the Earl of Clarendon. The general results of the expedition are:—1. 250 miles of new river examined, and the identity of the Chadda and Binue established. 2. The navigability of the river during the rainy season ascertained. 3. Several new tribes discovered, the friendly disposition of the natives proved, and the resources of the countries inquired into. 4. Positions of former charts corrected, and new places laid down from numerous astronomical observations. 5. Materials for a complete chart of the rivers have been collected, and also for a map of the surrounding regions. 6. Much information has been gathered concerning the various countries visited, and the periods of rise and fall of the rivers accurately noted. 7. The general desire of the natives to open trade and to receive instruction has been ascertained. 8. The existence and extent of slavery have been examined. 9. A favourable report can be made of the climate, as little sickness showed itself, and not a single life was lost. The Pleiad entered from the sea on the 12th July, and, visiting, among other place, Abôand Iddâ, reached the confluence on the 4th of August, and on the 18th the town of Dâgbo, the furthest point of Allen and Oldfield in 1838. After this the principal countries reached were Mitâhi, Kororofa, and some Filâtâ provinces, and also a very barbarous race named Bâibai. The expedition commenced the descent on the 30th September, by a falling river, and arrived again at Fernando Po on the 7th November, after an absence of four months, of which 118 days were spent in the Kwôrâ and Chadda. 3. 'Accounts from the Central African Mission, by Dr. Vogel,' communicated by the Earl of Clarendon. From Dr. Vogel's paper it was understood that while Dr. Barth was to have started from Timbuctoo to proceed *via* Sokatu, to meet Dr. Baikie and the Chadda expedition, Dr. Vogel, with the sappers and miners, was to have proceeded from Kuka in the month of June for the same purpose.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.**—Geographical, 8 p.m.—(1. Letter from A.R. Wallace, Esq., F.R.G.S., late Explorer of the Rio Negro, to Dr. Shaw, dated Sarawak, Nov. 1854, giving an account of Singapore and Malacca, as far as Mount Ophir, on his way to Borneo; 2. Meteorological observations, during a passage from London to Algona Bay, by Dr. P. C. Sutherland, F.R.G.S.; 3. Extracts of a letter from the Rev. Dr. Rebmam to the Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, dated Kisumuini in Rabat, S. E. Africa; 4. On the Coast Survey of South Africa, by Thomas Maclear, Esq. H.M.'s Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope, communicated by the late Sir G. Cathcart; 5. Notice on the departure of the North Australian Expedition.)
- Institute of Actuaries, 7 p.m.—(A Discussion on the Methods in Use of Valuing Contingent Reversionary Interests.)
- Royal Academy, 8 p.m.—(Sir R. Westmacott on Sculpture.)
- Tuesday.**—Medical and Chirurgical, 8 p.m.
- Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(On Steam and Sailing Colliders, and the modes of Ballasting. By Mr. E. E. Allen.)
- Zoological, 9 p.m.
- Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Professor Tyndall on Electricity.)
- Wednesday.**—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(Professor John Wilson, F.R.S.E., on the Iron Industry of the United States.)
- Microscopical, 7 p.m.—(Anniversary.)
- R. S. of Literature, 4 p.m.
- Thursday.**—Royal, 8 p.m.
- Royal Academy, 8 p.m.—(Professor Hart on Painting.)
- Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
- Photographic, 8 p.m.
- Medical and Chirurgical, 4 p.m.—(Anniversary.)
- Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Mr. W. B. Donne on English Literature.)
- Friday.**—Archæological Institute, 4 p.m.
- Botanical, 8 p.m.
- Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Dr. J. Stenhouse on the Economical Applications of Charcoal to Sanitary Purposes.)
- Saturday.**—Astetic, 2 p.m.
- Medical, 7 p.m.—(Annual Election.)
- Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Dr. Gladstone on the Principles of Chemistry.)

#### VARIETIES.

**The Parliament Clock.**—Messrs. A. and C. Black, of Edinburgh, have published, as a separate treatise, the article by Mr. F. Dent, chronometer-maker to the Queen, in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' on clock and watch work. There is an appendix on the Dipleidoscope. The great clock for the Houses of Parliament, as Mr. Dent states in this treatise, had been going in his factory for some time when he was writing. It was, by the contract, to have been fixed by February last, but the tower was not ready for it. The dials are to be 22 feet in diameter, and will be the largest in the world with the minute hand. Every half minute the point of the minute-hand will move nearly seven inches. The clock will go eight and a half days, and strike only for seven and a half, so as to indicate by its silence any neglect in winding it up. The mere winding of each of the striking parts will probably take two hours. The pendulum is 15 feet long. The wheels are of cast iron. The hour bell is 8 feet high, and above 9 feet in diameter, weighing 14 to 15 tons. The weight of the hammer is 4 cwt. The largest of the mere quarter bells is about the size of the great bell of St. Paul's, which weighs five and a half tons. The clock as a whole is said to be at least eight times as large as a full-sized cathedral clock. The main works will be on the top of the great frame, which is a trussed girder frame 19 inches deep (like the girders of the Crystal Palace), resting on two walls 11 feet apart, which come right up from the bottom of the tower.—*Builder.*

**The Post Augenot.**—The venerable Verviers poet, Augenot, died on the 9th inst. at the age of 82. An old soldier of the republic and the empire, he had long resided as a schoolmaster at Verviers, where he was sworn interpreter of several languages to the tribunal. He was the author of various works of French and Walloon poetry.—*Brussels Herald.*

**The Panama Railway.**—This road, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, which has hitherto, strange to say, attracted but little notice in England, is now actually completed, and at this date the trains are probably running through from sea to sea! It extends from Navy Bay, on the Atlantic, to the Bay of Panama, on the Pacific, its entire length being less than 49 miles. Its gauge is 5 feet; its grades easy—the highest for a short distance near the summit being 60 feet to the mile on the Pacific, and 53 feet to the mile on the Atlantic slope, the summit being only 250 feet above the level of the sea. Some of the bridges are of iron, and it is intended to replace all the wooden structures with that material. The neutrality of the isthmus it traverses is guaranteed by the Government of the United States, by special treaty with New Grenada; and also by Great Britain and the United States, by the Bulwer treaty. It thus becomes the highway of nations. The amount expended on the road to this date is about six millions of dollars (1,200,000*l.*) It is estimated that one million of dollars more will replace the wooden bridges with iron, and finish and fully equip the road for expected increase of traffic, making the entire cost 1,400,000*l.* sterling, or seven millions of dollars. This has been accomplished by the enterprise of our Transatlantic brethren, at an inconsiderable cost in view of its importance, a work which many pronounced an impracticability, and all deemed a hazardous undertaking.—*Builder.*

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